

Daily Defence Current Affairs

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Akash-NG Missile System User Trials Successfully Conducted: DRDO

- The DRDO on Tuesday "successfully completed" user evaluation trials of the next-generation Akash missile system, paving the way for its induction into the armed forces, officials said.
- The system demonstrated high precision against diverse aerial threats, including high-speed, low-altitude and long-range high-altitude targets, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) said.
- "User evaluation trials of Akash NG missile successfully completed today, meeting all PSQR requirements," it said in a post on X.
- During the trials, the missiles successfully intercepted aerial targets at different ranges and altitudes, "including the near-boundary-low-altitude and long-range, high-altitude scenarios," the DRDO said.
- "Akash-NG, equipped with an indigenous RF seeker and propelled by a solid rocket motor, is a potent system for ensuring air defence against different types of aerial threats," it said.
- The Ministry of Defence, in a post on X, said, "DRDO successfully completed User Evaluation Trials of the Next-Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile system, paving the way for its induction into the Indian Armed Forces."
- The system demonstrated high precision against diverse aerial threats, including high-speed, low-altitude and long-range high-altitude targets, it said.
- "Equipped with an indigenous RF seeker, dual-pulse solid rocket motor, and fully homegrown radars and C2 systems, Akash-NG marks a major boost to India's air defence capability," the ministry added.



Army Limits Social Media Use to 'Viewing Only'

- The Indian Army on Thursday said it has issued a policy governing the use of social media platforms such as Instagram and others, allowing personnel to access the app only for viewing and monitoring purposes.
- "No comments or views will be communicated on Instagram," defence officials said.
- Under the guidelines, platforms such as Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal may be used to exchange unclassified information of a general nature, but only with known persons. The onus of correctly identifying the recipient rests with the user.
- Through social media, Army personnel can see, observe and gain information, and keep themselves abreast of the happenings in and out of the country, the sources said.
- "But, one has to ensure that no sensitive information is leaked inadvertently on social media platforms, and hence they have to use them as passive observers," they said.
- During an interactive session held here in November as part of the Chanakya Defence Dialogue, Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi had emphasised the necessity of keeping a smartphone.
- However, he also underlined the difference between "reacting impulsively" and "responding thoughtfully".



US Report: China Eyes Arunachal

- The United States Department of Defence's latest annual report on China's military capabilities has spotlighted Beijing's expanding territorial ambitions, explicitly equating its covetous designs on Arunachal Pradesh with those on Taiwan and disputed maritime zones in the South and East China Seas.
- This assessment frames Arunachal as a "core interest" for China, integral to its pursuit of national "great rejuvenation". The report, released on Tuesday, underscores how China's leadership has broadened the definition of such interests to encompass not only Taiwan but also sovereignty claims amid ongoing territorial frictions.
- China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) has intensified activities along the Line of Actual Control (LAC), particularly in the eastern sector covering Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. This escalation follows multiple incursions into eastern Ladakh in April-May 2020, which heightened bilateral tensions. Although India and China completed troop disengagements from the remaining friction points at Depsang and Demchok in October last year, no meaningful de-escalation has occurred.
- Both armies remain forward-deployed along the 3,488-km LAC, preparing for their sixth consecutive winter standoff. Indian officials emphasise that Arunachal Pradesh, especially the strategically vital Tawang sector—claimed by China as "South Tibet"—is robustly fortified. A high density of troops, artillery, and integrated weapon systems ensures preparedness against potential threats.
- The Pentagon report notes a recent thaw in India-China relations, highlighted by the Modi-Xi meeting on the sidelines of the BRICS summit in October last year.

China appears poised to leverage this détente to stabilise ties and curb deepening US-India defence partnerships. Nevertheless, the report cautions that persistent mutual distrust, coupled with lingering irritants, will likely constrain any substantive bilateral progress.

- Beyond the LAC, the report details China's sweeping military modernisation across domains, rendering the US homeland more vulnerable. The PLA's nuclear arsenal exemplifies this: it continues a "massive expansion", projecting over 1,000 warheads by 2030 from a current stockpile of around 600. Naval ambitions include six additional aircraft carriers by 2035, augmenting the three already in service.
- A particular concern for India lies in China's sustained arming of Pakistan, designed to tie down Indian forces in South Asia. By May this year, Beijing had supplied 36 J-10C multirole fighters to Islamabad, alongside four 054A/P frigates and other platforms.



K-4 Missile Launch from INS Arighat Makes K-15 Obsolete For True Deterrence

- There was no official word from the Indian Ministry of Defence (MoD) on the missile test reportedly conducted off the coast of Visakhapatnam from the 6,000-tonne INS Arighat, which is operated by the tri-service Strategic Forces Command
- Notably, in the past as well, the MoD has provided no official confirmation of SLBM tests.

- The ToI quoted a source as saying, “A comprehensive analysis will determine whether Tuesday’s test actually met all laid-down technical parameters and mission objectives or revealed some shortcomings. It usually takes several tests for ballistic missiles, especially those launched from submarines, to achieve full operational status.”
- **Earlier Test**
- Earlier, in November 2024, the Strategic Command had carried out a test launch of the 3,500-km-range missile from the then newly inducted nuclear submarine INS Arighat.
- The missile was launched almost to its full range, marking the first K-4 launch from an operational submarine (previous tests used submersible platforms).
- INS Arighat, the Strategic Command’s second SSBN, was commissioned in August 2024.
- SLBMs differ from land-based strategic ballistic missiles in their configuration and construction. An underwater-launched missile must withstand the pressure of a 10-m column of water above it. SLBMs are sturdier in build and consequently heavier. Compared to land-based strategic missiles of the Agni series, SLBMs carry a lot of dead weight.
- The K-4 is the second operational SLBM deployed by the Strategic Forces. The first operational SLBM was the 750-km-range K-15 (aka BO-5).
- Developed by DRDO, the missile (K-15) was designed primarily for retaliatory nuclear strikes from nuclear-powered ballistic missile submarines (SSBNs) like the INS Arihant and INS Arighat.
- The K-15 can carry a nuclear warhead of up to roughly 1 tonne, guided primarily by inertial navigation systems, potentially augmented by terminal homing for improved accuracy.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. Which organisation successfully conducted the user evaluation trials of the Akash-NG missile system?

- A. Indian Air Force
- B. Ministry of Defence
- C. Defence Research and Development Organisation
- D. Strategic Forces Command

☒ Correct Answer: C. Defence Research and Development Organisation

2. Akash-NG missile system is equipped with which type of seeker?

- A. Infrared seeker
- B. Laser-guided seeker
- C. Indigenous RF seeker
- D. Electro-optical seeker

☒ Correct Answer: C. Indigenous RF seeker

3. Which feature of Akash-NG provides enhanced propulsion and performance?

- A. Liquid-fuel engine
- B. Ramjet engine
- C. Dual-pulse solid rocket motor
- D. Turbojet engine

☒ Correct Answer: C. Dual-pulse solid rocket motor

4. According to the Indian Army's new social media policy, personnel are allowed to use platforms like Instagram primarily for:

- A. Posting official updates
- B. Commenting on national issues

- C. Viewing and monitoring only
- D. Interacting with civilians

☒ Correct Answer: C. Viewing and monitoring only

5. Which messaging platforms are permitted for exchanging unclassified information with known persons?

- A. Facebook and Twitter
- B. Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal
- C. Instagram and Snapchat
- D. YouTube and LinkedIn

☒ Correct Answer: B. Skype, WhatsApp, Telegram and Signal

6. The US Department of Defence report equated China's interest in Arunachal Pradesh with which other issue?

- A. Hong Kong
- B. Tibet
- C. Taiwan
- D. Xinjiang

☒ Correct Answer: C. Taiwan

7. Which sector of Arunachal Pradesh is described as strategically vital and heavily fortified by India?

- A. Bomdila sector
- B. Walong sector
- C. Tawang sector
- D. Along sector

☒ Correct Answer: C. Tawang sector

8. By 2030, China's nuclear warhead stockpile is projected to exceed approximately:

- A. 500 warheads
- B. 800 warheads

- C. 1,000 warheads
- D. 1,500 warheads

☒ Correct Answer: C. 1,000 warheads

9. The K-4 submarine-launched ballistic missile was reportedly tested from which submarine?

- A. INS Arihant
- B. INS Chakra
- C. INS Arighat
- D. INS Kalvari

☒ Correct Answer: C. INS Arighat

10. Which missile has been made operationally obsolete for true deterrence after the successful K-4 launch?

- A. Agni-III
- B. Pralay
- C. K-15 (BO-5)
- D. BrahMos

☒ Correct Answer: C. K-15 (BO-5)

11. World Economic Forum Hq Is In

- A. Geneva, Switzerland
- B. Lausanne, Switzerland
- C. The Hague, The Netherlands
- D. Gland, Switzerland

ANSWER: A

12. ____ Is The Landlocked Country.

- A. Sri Lanka
- B. Pakistan
- C. Bhutan
- D. China

ANSWER: C

13. Which Is Not An Asian Country?

- A. Singapore
- B. Brunei
- C. UAE
- D. Peru

ANSWER: D

14. GPMG Stands For

- A. General Purple Machine Gun
- B. General Purpose Machine Gun
- C. General Purpose Machine Gum
- D. None

ANSWER: B

15. 'Ex Zapad' Conducted B/W India &

- A. Qatar
- B. Russia
- C. UAE
- D. Maldives

ANSWER: B

16. Padma Vibhushan Award Was Instituted on

- A. 2nd January 1954
- B. 2nd January 1955
- C. 2nd January 1956
- D. 2nd January 1957

ANSWER: A

17. Hq Of Department of Space Is In

- A. New Delhi
- B. Bengaluru
- C. Kochi
- D. Kolkata

ANSWER: B

18. CAIR Stands For

- A. Centre for Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

- B. Centre for Artificial Intelligent & Robotics
- C. Centre for Artillery Intelligence & Robotics
- D. Centre form Artificial Intelligence & Robotics

ANSWER: A

19. "An Odyssey in War and Peace" Book Is Written By

- A. Shashi Tharoor
- B. SHF Manekshaw
- C. Hew Strachan
- D. Lt Gen J.F.R. Jacob

ANSWER: D

20. With reference to the Project 15B warships, consider the following statements:

1. They are equipped with BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and long-range Surface-to-Air Missiles.
2. 'INS Surat' was the first-ever ship of Project 15B Destroyers.
3. Project 15B warships are completely indigenous.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- A. A. 1 only
- B. 1 and 2 only
- C. 3 only
- D. 2 and 3 only

ANSWER: A