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Flight-tests of RudraM-II

- DRDO and the IAF have conducted the successful flight-tests of RudraM-II Air-to-Surface Missile from an airborne platform. The tests were conducted under extreme release conditions with critical trajectory establishing the capability of all subsystems.
- The missiles after release were guided to a predefined target with pin-point accuracy. All the test objectives were fully met as confirmed by the flight data captured by various range instruments deployed by Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur.
- Rudram-II has been indigenously developed by Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad as the nodal DRDO laboratory in collaboration with other sister labs such as Defence Research and Development Laboratory, High Energy Materials Research Laboratory, Armament Research & Development Establishment & ITR.
- The **Rudram missile** is an indigenously developed **air-to-surface anti-radiation missile (ARM)** designed by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It is developed to detect, track, and destroy enemy radar systems, communication installations, and other radio-frequency emitting targets, thereby enhancing the combat capability of the Indian Armed Forces.
- **What is an Anti-Radiation Missile?**
- An anti-radiation missile is specifically designed to home in on electromagnetic radiation emitted by enemy radar and air-defense systems. By neutralizing these systems, the missile helps friendly aircraft operate more safely in hostile airspace.
- **Key Features of Rudram Missile**
- **Type:** Air-to-Surface Anti-Radiation Missile
- **Developer:** Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)

- **Country:** India
- **Launch Platform:** Fighter aircraft such as the Sukhoi Su-30MKI
- **Guidance System:** Inertial Navigation System (INS) with GPS support and passive homing seeker
- **Role:** Suppression and destruction of enemy air defence systems
- **Rudram-1**
- **Rudram-1** is the first missile in the Rudram series.
- **Features**
- Range of approximately **100–150 km**
- Capable of targeting surveillance radars, tracking radars, and communication stations
- Can lock onto targets before or after launch
- Effective against enemy air-defense networks
- **Rudram-2**
- The **Rudram-2** is an advanced version with improved range and strike capability.
- **Features**
- Longer range than Rudram-1
- Higher speed and enhanced precision
- Designed to engage heavily defended targets
- Strengthens India's Suppression of Enemy Air Defence (SEAD) capabilities
- **Rudram-3**
- The **Rudram-3** is under development as a long-range stand-off weapon.
- **Expected Features**
- Range exceeding **300 km**
- Ability to strike strategic targets deep inside enemy territory
- Advanced navigation and targeting systems

- Enhanced survivability against modern air-defense systems
- **Significance for India**
- The Rudram missile series provides several strategic advantages:
- Reduces dependence on imported anti-radiation missiles.
- Strengthens the Indian Air Force's capability to neutralize enemy radar networks.
- Enhances India's indigenous defence manufacturing under the Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative.
- Improves survivability of fighter aircraft during combat operations.



Centre Sanctions CISF Cover for NATGRID Bengaluru Campus

- The Centre has sanctioned deployment of Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) personnel for securing the NATGRID campus in Bengaluru. A spokesperson for the paramilitary force said on Sunday that the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) has sanctioned a total of 76 posts for the task.
- The NATGRID (national intelligence grid) is a critical national security infrastructure that aggregates data from multiple intelligence and law enforcement databases to support counter-terrorism operations.
- **NATGRID (National Intelligence Grid)** is an integrated intelligence-sharing platform established by the Government of India to strengthen national security and improve counter-terrorism capabilities. It enables authorized security and

law-enforcement agencies to access and analyze data from multiple databases through a secure and centralized network.

- The initiative was conceived after the **2008 Mumbai Attacks**, which highlighted the need for better coordination and information sharing among intelligence and security agencies.
- **What is NATGRID?**
- NATGRID is a secure intelligence network that links data from various government departments and organizations. It allows intelligence and law-enforcement agencies to obtain real-time information for investigating terrorism, organized crime, money laundering, human trafficking, and other threats to national security.
- The platform acts as a tool for connecting scattered information and generating actionable intelligence.
- **Objectives of NATGRID**
- Enhance national security and counter-terrorism efforts.
- Improve intelligence sharing among agencies.
- Facilitate faster investigation of security-related cases.
- Enable real-time access to critical information.
- Strengthen coordination among intelligence and law-enforcement organizations.
- **Key Features**
- **Integrated Database Network**
- NATGRID connects multiple databases maintained by government departments and agencies, including information related to:
 - Banking transactions
 - Income tax records
 - Immigration details
 - Passport information
 - Railway and air travel records
 - Telecom records
 - Vehicle registration data
- **Secure Access**
- Only authorized agencies can access the information through a secure system, ensuring controlled use of sensitive data.
- **Real-Time Intelligence Support**
- The platform helps investigators quickly retrieve information and identify links between suspects, financial transactions, travel records, and communication networks.
- **Participating Agencies**

- NATGRID provides access to several key security and intelligence agencies, including:
 - Intelligence Bureau (IB)
 - Research and Analysis Wing (R&AW)
 - National Investigation Agency (NIA)
 - Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI)
 - Enforcement Directorate (ED)
 - Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI)
 - Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)
- **Administrative Control**
- NATGRID functions under the **Ministry of Home Affairs** and serves as a critical component of India's internal security architecture.
- **Importance of NATGRID**
- **Counter-Terrorism**
- NATGRID helps security agencies identify suspicious activities and uncover links between individuals, organizations, and financial transactions.
- **Faster Investigations**
- The integrated system reduces delays caused by information silos and enables quicker decision-making.
- **Improved Coordination**
- It promotes seamless cooperation among various intelligence and enforcement agencies.
- **Data-Driven Security**
- The platform supports modern intelligence operations through advanced data analytics and information sharing.



West Bengal Hands Over Land to BSF for Bangladesh Border Fencing

- In a significant step towards strengthening border security, the Government of West Bengal has transferred additional land to the **Border Security Force (BSF)** for the construction of border fencing and related infrastructure along the India–Bangladesh border. The move is aimed at improving surveillance, curbing illegal cross-border activities, and enhancing national security.
- **142.79 Acres Handed Over to BSF**
- West Bengal Chief Minister **Suvendu Adhikari** announced that a total of **142.79 acres of land** has been transferred to the BSF for the establishment of border outposts and barbed-wire fencing infrastructure. The transfer is part of the state government's larger plan to provide **600 acres of land within 45 days** for border-related projects.
- The initiative is intended to accelerate fencing work along vulnerable stretches of the India–Bangladesh border and improve border management capabilities.
- **District-Wise Land Allocation**
- The land has been handed over across nine border districts of West Bengal. According to official details, the allocations include:
 - Cooch Behar – 22.92 acres
 - Jalpaiguri – 35.16 acres
 - Darjeeling – 8.81 acres
 - Uttar Dinajpur – 2.84 acres
 - Dakshin Dinajpur – 20.17 acres
 - Malda – 10.9 acres
 - Murshidabad – 38.8 acres
 - Nadia – 0.55 acre
 - North 24 Parganas – 2.6 acres
- Among these districts, Murshidabad and Jalpaiguri received the highest allocations due to their strategic importance and security requirements.

- **Importance of Border Fencing**

- West Bengal shares a **2,217-kilometre international border with Bangladesh**, the longest such border among Indian states. While a significant portion has already been fenced, several stretches remain uncovered, creating challenges for border security agencies.
- Border fencing serves multiple purposes:
 - Preventing illegal infiltration.
 - Checking cross-border smuggling activities.
 - Enhancing surveillance and monitoring.
 - Supporting effective border management.
 - Strengthening national security infrastructure.
- Local residents in several border areas have also expressed support for fencing projects, citing concerns related to illegal crossings and criminal activities.
- **Government's Border Security Initiative**
- The land transfer forms part of a broader strategy adopted by the state government to improve security along the international border. Earlier phases of the project included the transfer of land for fencing work and the establishment of BSF infrastructure across multiple districts. Construction activities have already begun in some sectors following land acquisition and handover.
- Officials have stated that the project will help facilitate faster completion of pending fencing work and strengthen coordination between the state administration and the BSF.
- **Significance for National Security**
- The transfer of land to the BSF is expected to boost India's efforts to secure its eastern frontier. Improved fencing and additional border outposts will enhance the ability of security forces to monitor border movements and respond to security challenges more effectively.

- As border infrastructure continues to expand, the initiative is likely to play a crucial role in ensuring safer and more efficient management of one of India's most sensitive international boundaries.
- **Key Facts**
- West Bengal has handed over **142.79 acres** of land to the BSF.
- The land will be used for **border outposts and barbed-wire fencing**.
- The state aims to transfer **600 acres** for border infrastructure projects.
- West Bengal shares a **2,217-km border with Bangladesh**.
- Murshidabad received the highest land allocation at **38.8 acres**.
- The initiative is part of efforts to strengthen border security and surveillance.



India Issues Formal Request to France for 114 Rafale Fighter Jets

- India has taken a major step toward strengthening its air combat capabilities by issuing a formal **Letter of Request (LoR)** to France for the acquisition of **114 Rafale fighter aircraft**. The proposed government-to-government deal, estimated at **₹3.25 lakh crore**, is expected to become one of the largest defence procurement projects in India's history.
- The move marks the beginning of detailed negotiations between the two countries, with discussions expected to cover pricing, technology transfer,

manufacturing arrangements, and operational requirements before the final contract is signed.

- **Major Boost for the Indian Air Force**

- The acquisition is aimed at addressing the Indian Air Force's declining fighter squadron strength and enhancing its operational readiness. India already operates 36 Rafale fighter jets and has separately ordered Rafale Marine aircraft for the Indian Navy. With the addition of 114 more aircraft, the Rafale fleet in India could grow significantly in the coming years.

- The proposal was earlier approved by the **Defence Acquisition Council**, paving the way for the formal request to the French government.

- **Strong Focus on Make in India**

- One of the most significant aspects of the proposed deal is the emphasis on domestic manufacturing. According to reports, **94 of the 114 Rafale jets are planned to be manufactured in India** by **Dassault Aviation** in partnership with Indian industry. The project is expected to include substantial technology transfer and localization.

- India aims to establish a full-fledged fighter aircraft production line under the initiative, with indigenous content expected to reach around 50 percent. This would make it the first time Rafale fighter jets are produced outside France on such a scale.

- **Negotiations Expected Over the Next Year**

- French authorities are expected to respond to India's request within the next few months. Following this, both sides will undertake detailed technical and commercial negotiations. Defence officials expect the process to move forward during the current financial year, with the final agreement potentially being concluded within a year.

- The issue is also likely to feature in high-level discussions between India and France as both nations continue to deepen their strategic and defence partnership.

- **Why the Deal Matters**

- The Rafale is a modern multirole fighter aircraft capable of conducting air superiority, ground attack, reconnaissance, and nuclear deterrence missions. The proposed acquisition is expected to:

- Strengthen the combat capabilities of the Indian Air Force.
- Help address the shortage of fighter squadrons.
- Boost indigenous aerospace manufacturing.

- Enhance technology transfer and defence industrial cooperation.
- Further deepen India-France strategic ties.
- **Key Facts**
- Deal Value: **₹3.25 lakh crore**
- Aircraft: **114 Rafale fighter jets**
- Procurement Mode: Government-to-Government agreement
- Manufacturer: **Dassault Aviation**
- Jets to be Manufactured in India: **94**
- Purpose: Strengthening the Indian Air Force and supporting defence indigenisation
- Current Rafale Fleet in India: **36 aircraft in service** with additional naval variants ordered.



REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. RudraM-II is a type of:

- A) Surface-to-Air Missile
- B) Air-to-Air Missile
- C) Air-to-Surface Missile
- D) Ballistic Missile

Answer: C) Air-to-Surface Missile

2. RudraM-II was successfully flight-tested by DRDO in collaboration with:

- A) Indian Navy
- B) Indian Army
- C) Indian Coast Guard
- D) Indian Air Force

Answer: D) Indian Air Force

3. Which DRDO laboratory is the nodal agency for the development of RudraM-II?

- A) DRDL, Hyderabad
- B) ADE, Bengaluru
- C) Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad
- D) LRDE, Bengaluru

Answer: C) Research Centre Imarat, Hyderabad

4. The primary purpose of the Rudram missile is to destroy:

- A) Submarines
- B) Enemy radar and communication systems
- C) Tanks
- D) Satellites

Answer: B) Enemy radar and communication systems

5. Rudram missile belongs to which category?

- A) Cruise Missile
- B) Ballistic Missile
- C) Anti-Radiation Missile
- D) Anti-Tank Missile

Answer: C) Anti-Radiation Missile

6. Which aircraft is a major launch platform for the Rudram missile series?

- A) Tejas Mk-1A
- B) Mirage-2000

- C) Rafale
- D) Sukhoi Su-30MKI

Answer: D) Sukhoi Su-30MKI

7. What is the approximate range of Rudram-1?

- A) 50–75 km
- B) 100–150 km
- C) 200–250 km
- D) Above 300 km

Answer: B) 100–150 km

8. Rudram-3, currently under development, is expected to have a range:

- A) 150 km
- B) 200 km
- C) 250 km
- D) Exceeding 300 km

Answer: D) Exceeding 300 km

9. NATGRID stands for:

- A) National Tracking Grid
- B) National Technology Grid
- C) National Intelligence Grid
- D) National Internal Grid

Answer: C) National Intelligence Grid

10. NATGRID was conceived after which major terrorist incident?

- A) Parliament Attack (2001)
- B) Pulwama Attack (2019)
- C) Uri Attack (2016)
- D) Mumbai Terror Attacks (2008)

Answer: D) Mumbai Terror Attacks (2008)

11. NATGRID functions under which ministry?

- A) Ministry of Defence
- B) Ministry of Home Affairs
- C) Ministry of External Affairs
- D) Ministry of Electronics and IT

Answer: B) Ministry of Home Affairs

12. How many CISF posts have been sanctioned for securing the NATGRID campus in Bengaluru?

- A) 50
- B) 60
- C) 76
- D) 100

Answer: C) 76

13. Which of the following agencies has access to NATGRID?

- A) NIA
- B) CBI
- C) IB
- D) All of the Above

Answer: D) All of the Above

14. West Bengal recently handed over how much land to the BSF for border fencing infrastructure?

- A) 100 acres
- B) 120.79 acres
- C) 142.79 acres
- D) 200 acres

Answer: C) 142.79 acres

15. West Bengal shares an international border of approximately _____ with Bangladesh.

- A) 1,500 km
- B) 1,850 km
- C) 2,000 km
- D) 2,217 km

Answer: D) 2,217 km

16. Which district received the highest allocation of land for BSF infrastructure?

- A) Jalpaiguri
- B) Cooch Behar
- C) Murshidabad
- D) Malda

Answer: C) Murshidabad

17. India has issued a Letter of Request (LoR) to France for the procurement of how many Rafale fighter jets?

- A) 36
- B) 72
- C) 96
- D) 114

Answer: D) 114

18. The proposed Rafale deal is estimated to be worth:

- A) ₹2 lakh crore
- B) ₹2.75 lakh crore
- C) ₹3.25 lakh crore
- D) ₹4 lakh crore

Answer: C) ₹3.25 lakh crore

19. How many of the proposed 114 Rafale aircraft are planned to be manufactured in India?

- A) 36
- B) 54
- C) 76
- D) 94

Answer: D) 94

20. Which company manufactures the Rafale fighter aircraft?

- A) Boeing
- B) Lockheed Martin
- C) Dassault Aviation
- D) Airbus Defence

Answer: C) Dassault Aviation

