

India to Test Fire Nuclear-Capable Ballistic Missile

Why in news?

\n\n

India is about to test launch a K-4 intermediate-range nuclear-capable ballistic missile.

\n\n

What are the specifications?

\n\n

\n

- The missile has a range of up to 3,500 km and is capable of carrying a nuclear/conventional payload of more than 2 tonnes.

\n

- It is powered by solid rocket propellants.

\n

- It has been designed to be fired from a depth of 50 meters.

\n

- It uses a Ringier Laser Gyro Inertial navigation system.

\n

- It is capable of cruising at hypersonic speed.

\n

- It also features a system of weaving in three dimensions during flight as it approaches its target.

\n

- Indian scientists claim that the missile is highly accurate with a near zero circular error probability.

\n

- India last tested the K-4 missile in April 2016 from aboard in the country's first domestically developed nuclear submarine, **the INS Arihant**.

\n

- Prior to that the missile was test launched from a submerged platform in March of the same year.

\n

- The K-4 missile deployed aboard boats of the new Arihant-class will give the Indian Navy an undersea nuclear deterrent capability.

\n

\n\n

What is the issue?

\n\n

- \n
 - The announcement of the K-4 trial launch follows Pakistan's first-ever test of a nuclear-capable **Babur-3** submarine-launched cruise missile (SLCM), and the surface-to-surface medium-range ballistic missile **Ababeel**.
 - \n
 - The entire K family of missiles is a series of submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM) developed by India to boost its second-strike capabilities.
 - \n
 - But one of the major problems for India remains is that its submarine force is too noisy.
 - \n
 - Therefore it questions the credibility of its second-strike capability even with the new K-4 missile.
 - \n
 - Also India's nuclear warfare policy is centered on a No First-Use (NFU) doctrine.
 - \n
 - Therefore India keeps nuclear warheads de-mated from missiles, which reduces the nuclear deterrence of the country.

\n\n

\n\n

Category: Mains | GS-III | S&T

\n\n

Source: The Diplomat

\n

