



Agni Prime

Why in News?

Recently, [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#) successfully test-fired indigenously-developed new generation medium-range ballistic missile Agni Prime (Agni-P) from the APJ Abdul Kalam Island at Odisha coast.

What is Agni Prime?

- It is a two-stage canisterised missile.
- It is the latest and sixth variant of the Agni series missiles (under **IGMDP - Integrated Guided Missile Development Program**).
- With multiple independently targetable re-entry vehicles, the missile is **capable of delivering a number of warheads** at separate locations at a distance of 1,000 - 2,000 km.
- The 10.5 metre tall missile with a diameter of 1.2 metre can carry **warheads up to 1.5 tonne**.
- It can perform high maneuvers while homing in on targets.
- These missiles will be inducted in the armed forces after couple of user associated launches
- It has a **dual redundant navigation and guidance system**.
- The Agni-P missile would further strengthen India's credible deterrence capabilities.

What is the Other Agni Class of Missiles?

- They are the mainstay of India's nuclear launch capability.
- Range of other Agni Missiles:
 - **Agni I:** Range of 700-800 km.
 - **Agni II:** Range more than 2000 km.
 - **Agni III:** Range of more than 2,500 Km
 - **Agni IV:** Range is more than 3,500 km and can fire from a road mobile launcher.
 - **Agni-V:** The longest of the Agni series, an Inter-Continental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) with a range of over 5,000 km.

What is IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program)?

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. It was approved by the Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
- The 5 missiles (P-A-T-N-A) developed under this program are:
 - **Prithvi:** Short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile.
 - **Agni:** Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e., Agni (1,2,3,4,5)
 - **Trishul:** Short-range low-level surface to air missile.
 - **Nag:** 3rd generation anti-tank missile.
 - **Akash:** Medium-range surface-to-air missile.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question:

Q. With reference to Agni-IV Missile, which of the following statements is/are correct? (2014)

1. It is a surface-to-surface missile.
 2. It is fuelled by liquid propellant only.
 3. It can deliver one-tonne nuclear warheads about 7500 km away.
- Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (a)

- Agni-IV is a nuclear-capable long-range ballistic missile of India, with a strike range of 4,000 km.
- The indigenously developed Agni-IV is a two-stage surface-to-surface missile. It is 20 metres long with a weight of 17 tonnes. Hence, statement 1 is correct.
- It is a two-stage solid fuelled system that can carry a one-tonne nuclear warhead over a distance of 4,000 kilometres. **Hence, statements 2 and 3 are not correct.**
- Therefore, option (a) is the correct answer.

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