

## **Indian Agni-V Missile Test 'Put on Hold' Until PM's US Visit**

India has put on hold testing of its indigenously built surface-to-surface Inter-Continental range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) and will now be conducted after Prime Minister's visit to the US.

Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi is scheduled to visit the US June 6. The Defense Research Development Organization (DRDO) will test the canistered version of the long range nuclear capable missile after he returns back to the nation; Indian express quoted unnamed sources from DRDO as saying Monday.

Although the missile is ready to display its fire power, defence sources said, the test has been delayed for over past six months for strategic reasons. Earlier planned in December last year and then early January, the test was reportedly postponed due to the visit of US President Barack Obama and busy schedule of Modi who was slated to witness the launch along with Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

A source on the condition of anonymity said while the Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) have already given the green signal for the test, the DRDO is yet to get any communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

“While the DRDO is waiting for the PM's confirmation to witness the launch, the PMO is yet to give confirmation on the visit of the PM to the test facility. The test now completely depends on the schedule of the PMO,” the source claimed. Although India secretly conducted two tests of submarine launched ballistic missile K-4 in March from under water platform in depressed range of less than 1,000 km, as the Agni-V, is in a ready state of induction, it would be fired from a hermetically sealed canister to its full range of around 5,000, km which is a threat for the powerful nations.

## **ICBM Agni-V Test Put on 'Hold' For Modi's US Visit**

The much awaited experimental test of the canisterised version of India's most potent and long range nuclear capable missile Agni-V has reportedly been put on hold for the scheduled visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the US on June 6. According to reliable sources in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), the purported last developmental trial of the indigenously built surface-to-surface Inter-Continental range Ballistic Missile (ICBM) would be conducted after the PM returns from the foreign visit.

Besides the joint session of the US Congress, the PM is slated to address the 41st Annual Leadership Summit in Washington DC to be attended by business tycoons and government leaders who are likely to debate over the deepening US-India commercial and strategic ties on June 7.

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The delay has however irked the defence and strategic experts. They believed the decision at the highest levels of government was owing to Washington’s supposed allergy to rising powers displaying their distant strike capabilities.

An eminent national security expert and professor at New Delhi based Centre for Policy Research (CPR) Bharat Karnad said the last year's test was postponed not to upset Washington as Obama was to tour Delhi.

"Now it has been put on hold because Prime Minister does not want his upcoming visit to the US, the fourth in last two years since he took office, to be marred by the launch of a missile that President Obama may deem provocative. He seems more eager to please Washington than to strengthen India's strategic muscle vis a vis China," he observed.

With a strike range of over 5,000, Agni-V is the country’s first ICBM which is capable of hitting targets in all Asian countries and parts of Africa and Europe. The 17-meter long, 2-meter wide, three-stage, solid-fuelled missile can carry a payload of 1.5 tonne and weighs around 50 tonnes.

As a canister-launch system gives the forces the requisite operational flexibility to promptly transport the ballistic missile and launch it from a place of their choice, the DRDO is also working on the canister version of other Agni series of missiles including Agni-I, Agni-III and Agni-IV.

A successful launch of the missile from the Abdul Kalam Island test facility off the Odisha coast would push a step forward towards its induction in the armed forces signaling the defence organization to go for its production. Local DRDO authorities refused to comment.

Game Changer

Strike Range – 5000 km, can target all of Asia and parts of Africa and Europe

Length – 17 meter

Diameter – 2 meter

Launch weight – 50 tonne

Payload – 1.5 tonne

Engine – Three stage solid fuel

Speed - Mach 24 (terminal phase)

## **PM Modi's US visit puts brakes on Agni-V ICBM's canister launch: Report**

The upcoming state visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the U.S. on June 6 has reportedly put the brakes on the final development trial of the nuclear-tipped Agni-V surface-to-surface inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM), the New Indian Express reported, citing reliable sources in the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The launch of the missile, which has a possible operational range of over 5,000 km, has been put off till after Modi returns, because he is supposed to witness the test.

Though the missile is ready to showcase its ability, the test dates have been pushed back by at least six months for "strategic reasons." It had been delayed initially due to the visit of U.S. President Barack Obama and later because of the busy schedule of Modi and Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar.

With the green signal from Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the DRDO is waiting for communication from the Prime Minister's Office (PMO).

"While the DRDO is waiting for the prime minister's confirmation to witness the launch, the PMO is yet to give confirmation on the visit of the prime minister to the test facility. The test now completely depends on the schedule of the PMO," the source told the New India Express.

However, defence experts in India like Bharat Karnad professor at New Delhi based Centre for Policy Research (CPR) have criticised such postponing. Karnad observed that Modi does not want his visit to be affected by the missile launch. "He seems more eager to please Washington than to strengthen India's strategic muscle vis-a-vis China," said Karnad.

This will be the last state visit Modi will have with Obama, as the latter's term will be ending in January 2017. Modi is also expected to address a joint session of the US Congress and the 41st Annual Leadership Summit in Washington D.C. on June 7.

The canister launch of the missile is expected to determine its flexibility — which will allow it to be transported to any place for launch.

*Deccan Chronicle*  
*09 May, 2016*

## **Manohar Parrikar: DFRL will train Karnataka farmers**

The expertise of the Ministry of Defence should not be restricted to the department; they should even reach the common man, says Parrikar.

Mysuru: Farmers of two villages in Mysuru district, will be trained in food processing skills and efforts will be made by the Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) to strengthen farmers economically in a project which will be taken on a pilot basis shortly, said Defence Minister, Mr Manohar Parrikar.

He was speaking to mediapersons after a meeting in this regard here on Sunday evening. Mr Parrikar said, "The expertise of the Ministry of Defence should not be restricted to the department, they should even reach the common man. Earlier Internet was only used by the defence department, not it is made available to common people.

"The DFRL has a lot of technical skills in food processing and conservation. If farmers are trained in these skills, they can be economically well-off," he said.

On a question on the Kalasa Banduri and Mahadayi water issues, he said, “Both the issues are before the Tribunals.

“This cannot be resolved through mutual talks. The judgement of the tribunal is final. We tried to resolve the Mahadayi issue out of court earlier, but Karnataka did not co-operate then.”

*The Hindu*  
09 May, 2016

## **DFRL’s know-how to help villages**

The city-based Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) has been directed to share its expertise and knowledge with local village communities in a bid to shore up their economic standards.

This followed a meeting with Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar, who visited the DFRL and interacted with the scientists on Sunday.

Speaking to presspersons, Mr. Parrikar said that the DFRL would share its expertise on preservation of agricultural produce and the like, which did not entail much cost. However, it was only an indicator and the actual know-how to be transferred to the villages would depend on its requirement.

“I have asked them to identify two villages and share their knowledge after ascertaining their requirements,” he said. Besides, the DFRL would also be involved in raising cleanliness and hygiene standards of the village community through their intervention under the Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan.

The DFRL would select the villages and prepare the scheme after consultations with the local community, Mr. Parrikar said. However, there was no thrust area in terms of transfer of knowledge or technology and it would be based on the needs of each village. “If we identify a thrust area, it may be thrust upon the residents whether they require it or not,” the Minister said.

Mr. Parrikar said that the DFRL technology was not necessarily for the defence sector though it might be their focus, but the same know-how could be used for civilian benefit and there were many such instances. The DFRL has technology with which vegetables and other perishable commodities can be preserved for two to four weeks. On the Mahadayi river water dispute, Mr. Parrikar said that it was a sensitive issue which was before the tribunal. It could be resolved if the two State governments decided to talk.

“It is a sensitive issue in Karnataka and Goa and if a one-to-one approach was adopted without politicising it and without much publicity, a solution could be found.”

*The Times of India*  
09 May, 2016

## **Share your findings with public: Minister to DFRL**

Mysuru: Technologies developed at the city-based Defence Food Research Laboratory (DFRL) will now be available for the public too.

Defence minister Manohar Parrikar on Sunday asked the DFRL to use the technologies that they develop for the betterment of the villagers, especially farmers, saying it will help the nation.

The minister, who was on a brief visit to the city checked into the DFRL, the premier R&D unit of the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), and had discussions with the authorities. He directed them to share hi-end technologies with the commoners, saying the benefits should reach the aam aadmi. “Technologies developed at NASA are used by the common man. Some of the technologies developed for military purposes like the internet is used by the commoner now. The DFRL's focus area is defence, but the technologies should not be denied to them,” he said.

Parrikar said he has asked the DRDO unit to use their technical skills in the interest of local farmers and producers and adopt two villages and give them whatever knowledge they have and improve their economic situation. He said the technologies like how to preserve the perishable commodities, mainly vegetables, can be shared with the villagers as it will help them get good returns. He said there are technologies available with the DFRL to extend the shelf life of vegetables by four weeks. The technology are not of high cost too. The technologies should also be used to create hygiene in villages and promote the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, he said.

He said the Make in India initiative is working wonders in the defence sector as 66% of the defence production is from India. The defence minister said the projects commissioned are long gestation projects and supply will take time. The end product will start reaching the defence sector by the end of three years as items are not sold in the market. The government has placed Rs 78,000 crore worth items for production with Indian companies last year, he said.

**Rafale deal in a month** - The defence minister hinted at closing the Rafale deal in a month. " With regard to Rafeal deal, I'm clear. We should get a right price and we are coming very close (to close the deal) but won't say we've closed the deal. The number of issues are limited and we can't afford to be in hurry and lose public money."

He said the deal has been pending for 20 years. "A month more can be worth it," he said.

**Mahadayi row** - Parikkar, who is a former CM of Goa, stressed that politicization of sharing of Mahadayi river water has created problems. He suggested it to resolve the issue out of the court by holding discussion with the Goa government. The dispute is in the tribunal and it is a sensitive issue for both Karnataka and Goa governments. "It has been politicized and we need to stop it," he stated, adding that he had tried to work out a solution outside the court when he was the CM.