

N-capable Agni-5 with 5,000-km range tested

India on Sunday successfully test-fired its indigenously developed nuclearcapable Long Range Ballistic Missile Agni-5, which has a strike range of 5,000km, from a test range off the Odisha coast. The surface-to-surface missile was launched with the help of a mobile launcher from launch pad-4 of the Integrated Test Range (ITR) at Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island, earlier known as Wheeler Island, at 9.45am, defence sources said.

Describing the flight test as successful, a defence press note said, "All the Radars, Electro Optical Tracking Stations and Telemetry Stations tracked the vehicle all through the course of the trajectory. All the mission objectives have been achieved." Defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman congratulated all DRDO scientists, staff, armed forces, and industries for the success of the "A5 Mission", it added. This was the sixth trial of the state-of-the-art Agni-5, which covered its full distance during the test.

And Mattis repeated the U.S. position that North Korea will only receive relief from U.N. national security sanctions when it demonstrates "verifiable and irreversible steps" to denuclearization. Through an interpreter, Song said that this is a great turning point as North Korea takes its first steps toward denuclearization. "Of course, given North Korea's past, we must be cautious in approaching this," he added that some of North Korea's recent measures "give us reasons to be positive and one can be cautiously optimistic as we move forward."