



11/03/24 - 15/03/24

# CURRENT AFFAIRS

## Prime Minister Launched **PM-SURAJ PORTAL**

(Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan  
Evam Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan)



# MIRV TECHNOLOGY SUCCESSFULLY TESTED ON AGNI-5 MISSILE



- The Prime Minister of India recently announced the successful test-firing of Agni-5 ballistic missile with Multiple Independently Targetable Re-entry Vehicle (MIRV) technology by the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) under Mission Divyastra.
- The flight test was carried out from Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam Island in Odisha. This is considered a major technological breakthrough.

## What is MIRV?

- The MIRV technology means a single missile can carry multiple warheads. It will ensure that a single missile can deploy multiple warheads at different locations.
- MIRVs were originally developed in the early 1960s to allow a single missile to carry multiple nuclear warheads, each capable of striking different targets independently, unlike traditional missiles.
- The inception of MIRV technology was done by the United States with deploying a MIRVed Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM) in 1970 and a MIRVed Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile (SLBM) in 1971. The United States, the United Kingdom, France,

- *Russia, China, and India are among the nations that possess the MIRV technology.*
- *Although MIRVs were not initially made to defeat ballistic missile defences, they are much more difficult to defend against than traditional missiles.*
- *However, deploying MIRV technology also poses complex challenges, including miniaturisation of warheads, development of advanced guidance systems, and ensuring the reliability of individual re-entry vehicles.*

# PM-SURAJ



## **What is Ayushman Health Card?**

- The Ayushman health card is a form of identification issued under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY), a government-sponsored health insurance scheme in India.
- It provides beneficiaries with access to cashless and paperless healthcare services at empaneled hospitals.
- The card contains essential information about the beneficiary, including their unique identification number and details of covered healthcare services.
- Recently, the Prime Minister of India launched the 'Pradhan Mantri Samajik Utthan and Rozgar Adharit Jankalyan' (PM-SURAJ) national portal and sanctioned credit support to one lakh entrepreneurs of disadvantaged sections.
- Furthermore, Ayushman health cards and personal protective equipment (PPE) kits were distributed by the ministry to sewer and septic tank workers (Safai Mitras) under the National Action for Mechanised Sanitation Ecosystem (NAMASTE).

### **What is PPE?**

- *Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) kits consist of various protective garments and accessories designed to shield individuals from potential health hazards or infections.*
- *These kits typically include items such as masks, gloves, goggles, face shields, gowns, and shoe covers.*
- *PPE kits are crucial for ensuring the safety of frontline workers, especially those who are exposed to hazardous environments or infectious diseases, such as sewer and septic tank workers.*

### **Significance**

- *The event underscored the government's commitment to "Vanchiton Ko Variyata," ensuring equitable support for historically underserved communities.*
- *This dedication reflects the broader vision of "Viksit Bharat," wherein every individual has the opportunity to contribute to and benefit from India's development journey.*



# INDIA WAS THE TOP ARMS IMPORTER IN 2019-2023



- India was the top arms importer in the world in the period 2019-23, with imports having gone up by 4.7% compared with the period 2014-18, according to Swedish think tank Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).
- At the same time, arms imports by European countries increased by 94% between 2014-18 and 2019-23 which comes against the backdrop of the war in Ukraine.

## Key Points

- Russia remained India's main arms supplier [accounting for 36% of its arms imports], this was the first five-year period since 1960-64 when deliveries from Russia made up less than half of India's arms imports.
- Nine of the 10 biggest arms importers in 2019-23, including the top three of India, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, were in Asia and Oceania or the West Asia.
- Ukraine became the fourth biggest arms importer after it received transfers of major arms in 2022-23.
- Imports of Pakistan, the fifth largest arms importer in 2019-23, went up by 43%, with China supplying as much as 82% of all its arms imports.

Arms exports by the world's largest supplier, the U.S., grew by 17% between 2014-18 and 2019-23,

*while those by Russia fell by more than half.*

*France emerged as the world's second largest arms supplier as its exports grew by 47%.*

### **SIPRI**

- *SIPRI is an independent international institute dedicated to research into conflict, armaments, arms control and disarmament.*
- *Established in 1966, SIPRI provides data, analysis and recommendations, based on open sources, to policymakers, researchers, media and the interested public.*
- *Based in Stockholm, SIPRI is regularly ranked among the most respected think tanks worldwide.*

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## CHINESE SATELLITES HEADING TO MOON FAIL TO REACH ORBIT AFTER ROCKET FALTERS

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- A pair of Chinese satellites failed to reach a planned orbit on their way to the moon after experiencing abnormalities, a rare setback for Beijing's high-profile space programme.

### Key Points

- The satellites, known as DRO-A and DRO-B, were launched recently from the Xichang Satellite Launch Centre in Sichuan Province.

- They were carried by A Yuanzheng-1S (Expedition-1S) upper-stage aircraft, attached to a Long March-2C carrier rocket.
- The first and second stages of the rocket operated normally, while the upper stage encountered an abnormality during flight, causing the satellites to fail to enter the preset orbit accurately.
- The relevant disposal work is currently underway, state-run Xinhua news agency reported, citing the launch centre.
- The plan was for the two satellites to head towards the moon and enter a distant retrograde orbit (DRO).
- From there, they would fly in formation and work with DRO-L – a third satellite that was successfully placed into low-Earth orbit by a Jielong 3 rocket last



*month – to test laser-based navigation technologies between the Earth and the moon, known as cislunar space.*

- The DRO orbit is at a high altitude, tens of thousands of kilometres above the lunar surface. It is highly stable, allowing spacecraft to remain on track for a long time without using fuel, and is an advantageous waypoint for research and exploration.*
- Long March rockets have been integral to China's space ambitions, including moon missions.*
- China's manned space station is currently in orbit.*