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Russia Test Launches Sarmat Missile Amid Rising Global Tensions

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Russia has carried out another test launch of its RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), one of the most powerful nuclear-capable missiles in the world. The missile is part of Russia's strategic nuclear modernisation programme and is designed to replace the older Soviet-era R-36M missiles.

What is the Sarmat Missile?

The RS-28 Sarmat is a heavy intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM).

NATO refers to it as "Satan II".

It is capable of carrying nuclear warheads over extremely long distances.

The missile is developed by Russia's Makeyev Rocket Design Bureau.

Why is it Considered So Powerful?

The Sarmat missile is considered one of the world's most dangerous strategic weapons because of its:

very long range, heavy payload capacity, high speed, and ability to evade missile defence systems.

According to reports:

it can carry multiple nuclear warheads, including hypersonic glide vehicles, and can strike targets across continents.

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Key Features of the Sarmat Missile

Type: Intercontinental Ballistic Missile (ICBM)

Range: Estimated around 18,000 km

Payload: Can carry multiple independently targetable nuclear warheads (MIRVs)

Launch System: Silo-based missile system

Speed: Travels at hypersonic speed during parts of its flight

Capability: Designed to bypass advanced missile defence systems.

What are MIRVs?

MIRV stands for: Multiple Independently Targetable Reentry Vehicles

This means:

a single missile can carry several nuclear warheads, and each warhead can hit a different target.

This makes interception much more difficult.

Why Did Russia Conduct the Test?

Russia says the test is part of routine military modernisation and strategic readiness.

However, the launch comes amid:

continuing tensions with NATO, the Russia-Ukraine war, and growing global nuclear concerns.

Analysts believe the test also serves as:

a strategic warning to Western countries, and a demonstration of Russia's nuclear deterrence capability.

Why is the Missile Important for Russia?

The Sarmat missile is a key part of Russia's nuclear triad, which includes:

land-based missiles, submarine-launched missiles, and strategic bombers.

Russia views the Sarmat as important because it can:

maintain nuclear deterrence against the US and NATO,

overcome modern missile defence shields,

and strengthen Russia's strategic military position.

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Why is the West Concerned?

Western countries are concerned because:

the missile can carry a very large nuclear payload,

its range allows global targeting,

and its advanced manoeuvrability may reduce interception chances.

The missile is also capable of using unconventional flight paths, including routes over the South Pole, making tracking harder.

Russia's Nuclear Modernisation Programme

The Sarmat missile is part of a broader Russian effort to modernise its nuclear forces.

Other advanced Russian strategic systems include:

Avangard hypersonic glide vehicle, Kinzhal hypersonic missile, Poseidon nuclear-powered underwater drone, and Burevestnik nuclear-powered cruise missile.

Global Concerns

The latest missile test has again increased concerns over:

global nuclear arms competition, weakening arms control agreements, and rising tensions between Russia and Western countries.

Experts warn that continued escalation could increase risks of military confrontation and reduce global strategic stability.