

Sarmat missile

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In news— Russia has test-fired the ‘world’s most powerful’ nuclear-capable missile named Sarmat (RS-28) recently.

About the missile-

- The Sarmat missile is a **new nuclear-capable intercontinental ballistic missile** that has been in the works since the 2000s.
- It was **test-launched for the first time from Plesetsk in northwest Russia.**
- The missile **weighs more than 200 tonnes** and can transport more than ten warheads.
- It is **a three-stage, liquid-fueled missile with a range of 18,000 km.**
- The missile is 35.3 metres long and 3 metres in diameter.
- It has been **designed to elude anti-missile defence systems with a short initial boost phase**, giving enemy surveillance systems a tiny window to track.
- **Sarmat has been dubbed Satan 2 by Western analysts.**
- It is among **Russia’s next-generation missiles that Putin has called “invincible,”** and which also include the Kinzhal and **Avangard hypersonic missiles.**
- As per the Russian President, it has the **highest tactical and technical characteristics** and is capable of overcoming all modern means of anti-missile defence and **can hit any target on Earth.**
- It will also be the **first Russian missile which can carry smaller hypersonic boost-glide vehicles.**
- It is more lethal than the R-36M Voevoda ICBMs (NATO name Satan) currently in service in Russia.
- The Sarmat is **named after nomadic tribes that roamed the steppes of present-day Southern Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan in the early medieval period** and were highly developed in horsemanship and warfare.

What is an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM)?

- An intercontinental ballistic missile is a missile with a minimum range of 5,500 kilometres primarily designed for nuclear weapons delivery.
- Similarly, conventional, chemical, and biological weapons can also be delivered with varying effectiveness, but have never been deployed on ICBMs.
- **Russia, the United States, China, France, India, the United Kingdom, and North Korea are the only countries that have operational ICBMs.**
- The first ICBMs were deployed by the Soviet Union in 1958; the United States followed the next year and China some 20 years later.