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Submarine-launched Ballistic Missile: K-4

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Why in News

- Recently, India successfully test-fired the **3,500-km range submarine-launched ballistic missile**, K-4.
- The test was carried out by the **Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** from a submerged pontoon (a flattish boat that relies on floats to remain buoyant) off the **Visakhapatnam coast (Andhra Pradesh)**.
 - A pontoon simulates the situation of a launch from a submarine.
- The **Circular Error Probability (CEP)** of the missile is much more sophisticated than Chinese missiles.
 - The CEP determines the **accuracy of a missile**. The **lower the CEP, the more accurate the missile** is.
- After induction, these will be the chief support of the **Arihant class of indigenous Ballistic Missile Nuclear Submarines (SSBN)**. It will give India the standoff capability to launch nuclear weapons submerged in Indian waters.
 - INS Arihant, the **first and only operational SSBN**, is armed with **K-15 Sagarika missiles** with a range of 750 km.
 - It means that the submarine has to move closer to the adversary's coast to launch the missile but the K-4 will be able to overcome that because of its range coverage.

Source: TH