

## India test fires IRBM

*by UPI*

NEW DELHI -- India, concerned about China's nuclear submarine base, Wednesday successfully tested its 1,864-mile range Agni-III missile. The solid fuel, surface-to-surface intermediate-range ballistic missile was fired from Wheelers Island in India's eastern Orissa state, the Press Trust of India reported. The report said the missile, which was being tested for the second time, reached a designated target in 800 seconds as planned, confirming India's entry into a select club of nations having such missile capability. The disclosure of China's nuclear-submarine base on the Hainan Island in South China Sea has come as a wake-up call to defense experts in India which doesn't have nuclear-powered submarines armed with nuclear-tipped missiles, the Times of India reported. Agni-III is designed to have a range that would include major Chinese cities and its success also will enable India to soon build its truly intercontinental range missiles, the PTI report said.

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