

India defends safety precautions on missile testing

Reacting to Indonesia's protest over India's Agni-III test Thursday, the government Friday said it had informed aviation authorities in Jakarta a week before the test and it has always followed safety precautions on missile testing programmes.

'India's missile testing programme has always followed the requisite safety precautions, including in the case of Agni-III tests of April 12,' said External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Navtej Sarna here.

'A notice was sent a week before the test by the Indian Civil Aviation Authority to ATC Jakarta and other ATCs in the region informing them about the launch window dates, danger time, zone and height,' he added.

'The ATCs were requested to take action to issue NOTAM (Notice to Aviators and Mariners) in accordance with relevant ICAO (International Civil Aviation Organisation) provisions,' Sarna said.

Indonesia had demanded an explanation from India after a Garuda flight, en route to Saudi Arabia, was Thursday forced to head home after it had reached Indian airspace when the Agni-III nuclear-capable ballistic missile was being test-fired.

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