The Moscow Times
30 YEARS
INDEPENDENT NEWS FROM RUSSIA

Kremlin Declines to Comment on Reports of Sarmat ICBM Explosion

September 23, 2024



An RS-28 Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile blasts off during a test launch in 2022. **Russian Defense Ministry**

The Kremlin on Monday said it could not comment on reports of an explosion that allegedly happened during a test of Russia's next-generation Sarmat intercontinental ballistic missile

Satellite images from the Plesetsk test site in the northern Arkhangelsk region showed a large crater, which arms experts believe may be the result of a failed Sarmat test flight or a defueling incident following an aborted launch.

"We have no information on this matter," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, advising them to reach out to military officials.

Russia's space agency Roscosmos said last September that the Sarmat was operational and ready for combat duty after it was first unveiled by President Vladimir Putin in 2018.

Nicknamed "Satan 2" by Western analysts, the RS-28 Sarmat weighs more than 200 metric

tons and can carry multiple nuclear warheads. The missile is designed to evade defense systems by having a short initial boost phase, limiting the time available for surveillance to track it.

Since launching the full-scale invasion of Ukraine, Putin has made veiled nuclear threats to Kyiv's Western allies, describing the Sarmat and other advanced missiles like the Kinzhal and Avangard as "invincible."

Original url:
https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2024/09/23/kremlin-declines-to-comment-on-reports-of-sarmat-icbm-explosion-a86439