# Adani Defence demonstrates 'Bagheera AT1' anti-tank missile at Pokhran

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## News

PTI reported on 21 November 2026 that Adani Defence and Aerospace, the defence and aerospace arm of the Adani Group, carried out a demonstration of its vehicle-mounted 'Bagheera AT1' anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan on 20 November. It was not a DRDO trial or an Army induction test but a private-sector 'No Cost No Commitment' (NCNC) demonstration, watched by senior representatives of the Indian Army, the Department of Military Affairs and the Ministry of Defence. Four missiles were fired during the day and night demonstrations, including two fired in quick succession along the same laser beam at an armoured-vehicle target: the first is meant to defeat the tank's Active Protection System (APS), the second to get through the remaining defences. According to the company, the anti-tank engagement range is 8 km, with guided engagements possible up to 10 km; an aerial target was also engaged at extended range. Riding a laser beam rather than a radio link makes it highly resistant to electronic jamming, the firm says. A 4×4 high-mobility armoured vehicle carries an automated launcher and day/night sights, with 4 ready-to-fire missiles plus 8 reloads (12 per vehicle). It was designed and developed in 18 months.

## Key facts for the exam

| Point | Details |
|---|---|
| **System** | Bagheera AT1 – vehicle-mounted ATGM |

| Point | Details |
|---|---|
| **Developer** | Adani Defence and Aerospace (private; not DRDO) |
| **Place, date** | Pokhran field firing ranges, Rajasthan – 20 Nov 2026 |
| **Guidance** | Laser beam-riding |
| **Range (company claim)** | Anti-tank 8 km; guided engagement up to 10 km |
| **Tactic** | 2 missiles on one beam – first defeats the APS |
| **Vehicle** | 4×4 high-mobility armoured vehicle; 4 + 8 = 12 missiles |
| **Demo type** | NCNC – No Cost No Commitment (private demonstration; not an induction) |
| **Reported by** | PTI, 21 Nov 2026; performance figures are company claims |

## Background

- Reports say the Army's in-service ATGMs are the second-generation 'Milan-2T' and 'Konkurs-M', and India is acquiring the US 'Javelin'. DRDO's own Nag family includes the helicopter-launched 'Helina' (IAF version 'Dhruvastra'), fired from the ALH with a range of up to 7 km (BDL).
- The Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP), begun in 1982–83 under Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, produced five missiles – Prithvi, Agni, Akash, Trishul and Nag; DRDO declared it complete on 8 January 2008.
- Pokhran in Rajasthan's Jaisalmer district is where India's nuclear tests took place: 'Smiling Buddha' in May 1974 and 'Operation Shakti' in May 1998. Today it is a major Army firing range for missile and artillery trials.
- Economically, India's defence production reached a record ₹1.78 lakh crore in 2025-26, with the private sector's share at 24% (about ₹42,000 crore) and exports at ₹38,424 crore, reports say. Private firms entering missile development is part of the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' push.

**Tamil Nadu link:** Dr A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, who led the IGMDP and is hailed as India's 'Missile Man', was born at Rameswaram in Tamil Nadu; he also played a key role in the 1998 Pokhran tests. The Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor (Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchi) is growing as a hub for private defence manufacturing.

## Frequently asked questions

### What is this news about?

PTI reported on 21 November 2026 that Adani Defence and Aerospace, the defence and aerospace arm of the Adani Group, carried out a demonstration of its vehicle-mounted 'Bagheera AT1' anti-tank guided missile (ATGM) system at the Pokhran field firing ranges in Rajasthan on 20 November.

### What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

System: Bagheera AT1 – vehicle-mounted ATGM; Developer: Adani Defence and Aerospace (private; not DRDO); Place, date: Pokhran field firing ranges, Rajasthan – 20 Nov 2026; Guidance: Laser beam-riding.

### What is the background to this news?

Reports say the Army's in-service ATGMs are the second-generation 'Milan-2T' and 'Konkurs-M', and India is acquiring the US 'Javelin'.

## Practice questions (with answers)

**1. Bagheera AT1 uses 'beam-riding' guidance. What does such a missile follow to reach its target?**

**A) A laser beam**

**B)** A trailing wire

**C)** The target's heat

**D)** Satellite signals

**Answer: A** – Explanation: A laser beam – with no radio link it resists jamming well. Homing on heat is done by an infrared (IIR) seeker.

**2. Bagheera's first missile targets a tank's 'Active Protection System' (APS). What does an APS do?**

**A)** Jams enemy radios

**B) Destroys incoming missiles**

**C)** Hides tank from radar

**D)** Filters cabin air

**Answer: B** – Explanation: It senses and intercepts an incoming missile or round. So the first missile uses up the APS and the second strikes.

**3. What is the helicopter-launched version of DRDO's Nag anti-tank missile called?**

**A)** Prahaar

**B)** Astra

**C) Helina**

**D)** Nirbhay

**Answer: C** – Explanation: Helina (HELIcopter-launched NAg); the IAF version is 'Dhruvastra'. Astra is air-to-air; Nirbhay is a cruise missile.

**4. What was the code name of India's May 1998 nuclear tests at Pokhran, Rajasthan?**

**A)** Smiling Buddha

**B)** Operation Vijay

**C) Operation Shakti**

**D)** Operation Meghdoot

**Answer: C** – Explanation: Operation Shakti (Pokhran-II, 1998). Smiling Buddha was the 1974 test; Vijay – Kargil 1999; Meghdoot – Siachen 1984.

**5. The Bagheera AT1 missile system was demonstrated to the Indian Army under which arrangement?**

**A)** iDEX challenge

**B)** Make-II prototype order

**C)** DRDO user trial

**D) No Cost No Commitment (NCNC)**

**Answer: D** – Explanation: No Cost No Commitment (NCNC) – the company bears the cost of the demonstration; it is not an Army purchase order (PTI).

**Sources:** PTI (via ThePrint/Business Standard, 21–22 Nov 2026); The Week (21 Nov 2026); BDL (Helina); PIB – Ministry of Defence, 'Defence production hits record ₹1.78 lakh crore in FY26' (17 Jun 2026) and exports ₹38,424 crore (2 Apr 2026, newsonair.gov.in); DRDO (IGMDP completion, 8 Jan 2008). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.