SNAPSHOT

Indigenous anti-ship missiles

Nirbhay cruise missile (photo: Vayu)

The devastating impact of anti-ship missiles was demonstrated for the first time in South Asia when missile boats of Indian Navy destroyed a number of Pakistan Navy vessels in Karachi harbour, firing Styx AShM on 5 December 1971. Over the next decades, India has acquired several new anti-ship missiles and has also achieved significant progress in indigenous development of anti-ship missiles development. These are briefly reviewed in this 'snapshot' .

BrahMos is a ramjet-propelled supersonic cruise missile jointly developed by Russia and India with sea skimming capability and can defeat air defence systems, striking the target high accuracy. Having a speed of Mach 3, the BrahMos can sink enemy ships in a single strike owing to its high kinetic energy. The missile can be launched from the ground, by ship or aircraft against both land and sea targets. According to recent reports, range of the BrahMos is to be increased to 600 km, and later to 800 km. While a submarine-launched version is already developed, a lighter version is being developed for launch from torpedo tubes in the anti-ship role. The lighter, air-launched version will enable Indian fighters to carry this weapon for long range missions. The hypersonic version being developed will surely become reality in the near future, and a game changer for India's Armed Forces.

The **Nirbhay** is a long-range subsonic cruise missile under development, with a range of more than 1000 km, flying at a speed of Mach 0.6. This platform has been test-fired and demonstrated its terrain hugging and sea skimming capability.

The Long Range Land Attack Cruise Missile **(LRLACM)** was unveiled at the recent DefExpo 2020. According to *Onmanorama* reports, this new system will have a range of 1000 km launched from a UVLM (Universal Vertical Launcher


(photo: MoD)