

# Agni Shakti\*

## Indigenous missiles augment Indian Army firepower

**T**he Indian Army, after a very long period, has now embarked on its major missile modernisation programme, to supplant its existing, obsolescent missiles with indigenously developed new-generation systems that include anti-tank, air-defence, strategic land-attack cruise as well as tactical guided missiles. Some of these have already been inducted into the Army, while the DRDO is currently progressing the completion of trials for delivery of the others.

500 metres to 4 kilometres in extremely hot desert conditions.

The *Helina*, which is helicopter-launched variant of the *Nag*, with a 7-8 km range, is being developed for employment

by attack helicopters including the HAL *Rudra* and LCH. Several test-firings of the *Helina* to confirm accuracy, extended range and its seeker reliability have taken place but some additional testing is required to validate quality



*Helina ATGM (photo: MoD/Army)*



*Nag (Prospina) with NAMICA (photo: MoD)*

and sustainably of the weapon. An extended-range version of *Helina*, the *SANT* (Stand-Off Anti-tank Missile), with double the range, is also under development for attack helicopters and unmanned air combat vehicles of the IAF and Indian Army.

A low-weight Man Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) will shortly be cleared for induction with Indian Army infantry and para-commando units, the missile now being in final phase of development. It weighs less than 15 kg and with its high-resolution IIR seeker, this DRDO-MPATGM can precisely target AFVs at ranges between 75m to 2500m.

### New-generation anti-tank weapons

The DRDO has successfully developed a family of third-generation, subsonic and LOBL (lock-on before launch) anti-tank guided munitions to destroy the enemy's highly fortified armoured vehicles. The initial - and prime - land-attack variant of the 'Nag' missile (Prospina) has been cleared for series production after decade-long trials.

An initial batch of 293 missiles for the 13 NAMICA (Nag Missile Carrier) launch vehicles ordered will be inducted into the army, and is one of the five missile systems being developing under the Integrated Guided Missile Development Programme (IGMDP). This missile, with top-attack mode and robust high-resolution IR sights, can accurately impact enemy tanks (both static and mobile) at distances of between



*Man Portable Anti Tank Guided Missile (photo: DRDO)*

**\* Fire Power**