



Helina and Dhruvastra: Anti-tank Guided Missile

Why in News

Recently, India has successfully test-fired indigenously-developed **anti-tank guided missile systems 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra'** in the Pokhran range, Thar desert (Rajasthan).

Key Points

▪ About:

- The **Helina (the Army version)** and **Dhruvastra (Indian Airforce version)** are **helicopter-launched versions** of third-generation anti-tank guided missiles (**the Nag missile system**).
- The missile system has all-weather day-and-night capability and can defeat battle tanks with conventional armor and explosive reactive armor.

▪ Indigenous:

- The missile systems have been designed and developed indigenously by the [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#).

▪ Operations:

- The 'Helina' and 'Dhruvastra' can engage targets both in direct hit mode as well as **top attack mode**.
 - **Top Attack Mode:** The missile is required to climb sharply after launch and travel at a certain altitude, then plunge on top of the target.
 - **Direct Attack Mode:** The missile travels at a lower altitude, directly striking the target.

Nag Missile

- Nag is a third-generation, fire-and-forget, anti-tank guided missile developed by DRDO to support both mechanized infantry and airborne forces of the Indian Army.
- It is an all-weather condition with day and night capabilities and with a minimum range of 500m and a maximum range of 4 km.
- Nag can be launched from land and air-based platforms. The land version is currently available for integration on the Nag missile carrier (NAMICA).
- DRDO has developed nag Missiles under the **Integrated Guided Missile Development Program**.

IGMDP (Integrated Guided Missile Development Program)

- It was conceived by Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam to enable India to attain self-sufficiency in the field of missile technology. It was approved by the Government of India in 1983 and completed in March 2012.
- The **five missiles (P-A-T-N-A)** developed under this program are:

- **Prithvi:** Short-range surface to surface ballistic missile.
- **Agni:** Ballistic missiles with different ranges, i.e., Agni (I, II, III, IV, V).
- **Trishul:** Short-range low-level surface to air missile.
- **Nag:** 3rd generation anti-tank missile.
- **Akash:** Medium range surface to air missile.

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