

KH-69 Missile, Features, Range, Speed, Significance, Latest News

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KH-69 missile is a Russian **air-launched cruise missile** designed for precision strikes against important ground targets. It has attracted attention because of its **long-range capability, low-altitude flight profile, stealth-oriented design and compatibility with modern Russian fighter aircraft**.

Why in News?

The **KH-69 missile** is in the news amid growing attention to Russia's advanced air-launched weapons and their use with **fifth-generation fighter aircraft such as the Su-57**. Its development reflects Russia's focus on improving **long-range precision-strike capabilities** while making missiles harder for enemy air-defence systems to detect and intercept.

KH-69 Missile Features

The key features of KH-69 Missile have been discussed below.

- **Type:** The KH-69 is an **air-launched cruise missile** designed primarily for precision strikes against ground targets.
- **Country of Origin:** It has been developed by **Russia** as part of its modern long-range precision-strike weapon systems.
- **Speed:** The missile is **subsonic**, meaning it travels below the speed of sound. Its emphasis is on **stealth, accuracy and survivability** rather than extremely high speed.
- **Range:** The KH-69 is generally reported to have a range of around **290-400 km**, although reported specifications can vary depending on the source and configuration.
- **Warhead:** It can carry a **conventional high-explosive warhead** designed to cause significant damage to ground targets.
- **Launch Platform:** The missile can be integrated with modern Russian aircraft, including the **Su-57 fifth-generation fighter aircraft**.
- **Low-Altitude Flight:** The KH-69 is designed to fly at **low altitudes**, which can make detection by ground-based radar systems more difficult.
- **Stealth-Oriented Design:** Its design incorporates features intended to **reduce radar detectability**, helping the missile approach its target with a lower probability of interception.
- **Precision Strike:** The missile is designed to accurately attack **fixed and important ground targets**, making it suitable for precision-strike missions.
- **Compact Design:** Its relatively compact dimensions allow it to be carried internally by certain modern fighter aircraft, helping aircraft maintain a lower radar signature.

How Does the KH-69 Missile Work?

The KH-69 is launched from an aircraft and then flies toward its target using a combination of **navigation and guidance systems**. Unlike a ballistic missile that follows a largely high-arching trajectory, a cruise missile generally flies through the atmosphere and can follow a **pre-planned route at relatively low altitude**.

Its low-level flight and ability to approach targets along a planned route are intended to improve its survivability against enemy **air-defence systems**.

KH-69 and Su-57

The KH-69 has gained particular attention because of its connection with Russia's **Su-57 fifth-generation fighter aircraft**.

The missile's compact design allows it to be carried in the aircraft's **internal weapons bays**. This is important because internal carriage helps preserve the aircraft's **low-observable or stealth characteristics**.

The combination of a modern fighter aircraft and a long-range precision missile can provide the ability to conduct **stand-off strikes**, allowing the launching aircraft to attack targets without necessarily approaching them closely.

Source: <https://vajiramandravi.com/current-affairs/kh-69-missile/>

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