

R-37M Missile

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R-37M Missile Latest News

In a major development for India's air superiority, Moscow recently greenlit the sale of its formidable R-37M ultra-long-range air-to-air missile to New Delhi.

About R-37M Missile

- The R-37M missile, known by its **NATO reporting name AA-13 Axehead**, is a **long-range air-to-air missile** developed by **Russia**.
- It is designed to **eliminate enemy fighter jets and drones beyond visual range (BVR)**.
- People often call the R-37M an "**AWACS Killer**" because it **can go after large and important enemy aircraft**. These include **radar planes like AWACS, refuelling tankers**, and even **jamming aircraft** that help enemy fighters.
- **Indian engineers expect** the missile **to fit smoothly onto the IAF's Su-30MKI fighters** because the weapon is already approved for the Russian Su-30SM, which is almost the same type of aircraft.

R-37M Missile Features

- Measuring approximately 4.2 metres long and weighing nearly 600 kilograms, the R-37M carries a 60-kilogram **high-explosive fragmentation warhead intended for large airborne targets.**
- Its **guidance architecture** combines **inertial navigation, mid-course data-link updates,** and **active radar homing during the terminal phase,** allowing the launching aircraft to adjust targeting information dynamically.
- It also **employs a lofted trajectory profile,** enabling the **missile to climb before descending** toward its target, thereby **conserving energy** and **extending effective engagement range.**
- It features a **jettisonable rocket booster** that allows it to achieve a **range of 300 to 400 kilometers,** making it **one of the longest-reaching air-to-air missiles** in service globally.
- Its **speed** can reach **hypersonic levels, up to Mach 6,** which is crucial for intercepting fast-moving targets. It is the **world's fastest known air-to-air missile class.**

Source: DEF

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