

Naval Anti-Ship Missile-Short Range (NASM-SR)

May 21, 2022

In news- Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Navy successfully conducted maiden flight-test of indigenously-developed Naval Anti-Ship Missile launched from a Naval Helicopter from Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Odisha.

About Naval Anti-Ship Missile-

- Developed by the DRDO, the first time its development was revealed to the general public was in 2018 when then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman made a reference to it in Parliament. Later, it was also part of the display at the 2020 Defence Exposition held in Lucknow.
- It has a **range of 55 km and weighs 385 kg**. This missile will **replace the Sea Eagle missiles** which are currently in use with the Navy.
- With the Sea King helicopters too being phased out, it is expected that the **NASM-SR will be used with the new MH-60R multi-role helicopters**, which are being inducted into the Navy.
- It **carries a warhead of 100 kg and has subsonic capabilities**, which means that it flies below the **speed of sound at 0.8 Mach**. The sub-sonic flight speed makes it **difficult for the naval vessels on target to detect it**.
- It has a **launch altitude of maximum of 3 km and can skim 5 metres** above sea level when on final approach to the target.
- The NASM-SR **can also be fired from the shore to target vessels in the sea**.
- This kind of land-based missile launch capability was shown by the Ukrainian military recently when they used

a anti-ship cruise missile to sink the Russian ship Moskva.

- The **NASM-SR is very effective against smaller vessels like patrol boats** and can also cause widespread damage on larger vessels.
- It has been proven in modern naval conflict that a modest strike by a missile can still sink a ship because of the implosion caused by on-board fuel and ammunition.
- Also, the **lighter size of the missile makes it easier to be carried by helicopters** and in turn provides Naval Commanders with more options to choose from in the tactical battlefield on the seas.