



Astra Missile

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Recently, ASTRA the **first indigenously developed air-to-air missile** was successfully flight-tested off the coast of Odisha.

- The missile was launched from **Sukhoi-30 MKI**.
- The Astra missile is developed by **Defence Research and Development Organization (DRDO)**.
- It works on the **Beyond Visual Range Air-to-Air Missile (BVRAAM) technology** that enables the fighter-pilots to shoot precisely at the enemy targets which are beyond their visual range.
- The **specifications** of the missile are:
 - **Speed:** over **5,555 km per hour** or **4.5 mach**
 - **Range:** over **70 km,**
 - **Payload/warhead** capacity: **15 kg.**
 - **Features:**
 - **Electronic Counter-Countermeasures or ECCM** feature enables Astra missile to overcome defensive measures put forth for the target by the enemy.
 - Another deadly feature of this missile is the option to choose between “Lock-on Before Launch – LOBL” and “Lock-on After Launch – LOAL”
Lock-on After Launch option allows the fighter aircraft to safely shoot and scoot after launching the missile towards the target.
- Astra is extremely effective in a multi-target scenario and therefore, has been described as the most potent weapon system for IAF’s combat aircraft.

Source: PIB