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RudraM-II — DRDO and IAF Successfully Test Air-to-Surface Missile

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RudraM-II — DRDO and IAF Successfully Test Air-to-Surface Missile

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✓ Every fact web-verified against primary sources

The Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the Indian Air Force (IAF) successfully conducted a flight test of the RudraM-II air-to-surface missile from a Sukhoi-30MKI (Su-30MKI) fighter aircraft over the Bay of Bengal on June 2, 2026. The missile was tested under extreme release conditions, validating guidance, navigation, control, and targeting — and struck its pre-designated target with precision.

RUDRAM-II AT A GLANCE

PARAMETER	DETAIL
Full name	RudraM-II — air-to-surface anti-radiation missile
Developed by	DRDO — indigenously developed
Launch platform	Sukhoi Su-30MKI (airborne platform)
Speed	Up to Mach 5.5
Range	~300 km
Warhead	~200 kg
Release altitude	3–15 km
Guidance	Passive radio-frequency seeker (anti-radiation); GPS / INS / IIR multi-mode
Test date	June 2, 2026, Bay of Bengal

WHAT IS AN ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE?

An **anti-radiation missile (ARM)** is a missile designed to **detect, track, and home in on enemy radar emissions** — destroying radar installations, surface-to-air missile (SAM) systems, and other radio-frequency emitters. It is a key tool for **SEAD (Suppression of Enemy Air Defences)** operations.

- When enemy radar emits, the missile locks onto the signal and homes to the source.
- Destroying enemy radar degrades their ability to guide their own missiles or direct anti-aircraft fire.
- ARMs are therefore **force multipliers** for air campaigns.

THE RUDRAM FAMILY

VARIANT	RANGE	STATUS
RudraM-I	~150-200 km	Tested 2020; operational induction
RudraM-II	~300 km	Successfully tested June 2, 2026
RudraM-III	~550 km (reported)	Under development

- All launched from IAF platforms, primarily **Su-30MKI**.
- **RudraM-I** was India's first domestic ARM; replaced the need to import Israeli Harpy/Harop.

SIGNIFICANCE

- 1 **SEAD / DEAD capability** — India can now suppress Chinese or Pakistani radar and SAM networks at longer ranges before its own aircraft or missiles enter adversary air-defended space.
- 2 **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** — indigenous development reduces import dependence on Israeli or Western ARM systems.
- 3 **Su-30MKI integration** — deepens the IAF's largest platform as a multi-role strike asset.
- 4 **Escalation and deterrence** — a 300 km ARM (launched from a standoff position) complicates adversary air-defence planning.

DRDO'S DEFENCE TECHNOLOGY ECOSYSTEM

- **DRDO** — under the **Ministry of Defence**; ~52 labs; ~30,000 employees; **apex** body for defence R&D.
- **Self-Reliance Index** — India's defence import share has declined from ~70% to below 45%; target is to reverse the ratio.
- Related programmes: Akash SAM, SFDR (Solid Fuel Ducted Ramjet), LRDE radar, ASTRA BVR missile.

UPSC RELEVANCE

PAPER	RELEVANCE
GS3	Defence technology — SEAD, anti-radiation missiles, Aatmanirbhar Bharat in defence; indigenous development
Prelims	RudraM-II (DRDO; ~Mach 5.5; ~300 km; Su-30MKI); ARM = anti-radiation missile; SEAD; DRDO under MoD

FACTS CORNER

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RUDRAM-II:

Air-to-surface anti-radiation missile; indigenously developed by DRDO

Platform: Su-30MKI; test site: Bay of Bengal (June 2, 2026)

Speed: Mach 5.5; Range: ~300 km; Warhead: ~200 kg

Release altitude: 3-15 km; extreme conditions validated

RUDRAM FAMILY: RUDRAM-I (~150-200 KM, TESTED 2020) → RUDRAM-II (~300 KM, 2026) → RUDRAM-III (~550 KM, DEVELOPING)

ANTI-RADIATION MISSILE (ARM): HOMES IN ON ENEMY RADAR EMISSIONS; USED FOR SEAD (SUPPRESSION OF ENEMY AIR DEFENCES)

DRDO: UNDER MINISTRY OF DEFENCE; ~52 LABS; INDIGENOUS DEFENCE R&D

Sources: PIB, DRDO, The Hindu

Source: RudraM-II — DRDO and IAF Successfully Test Air-to-Surface Missile — Ujjiyari.com | Free UPSC & State PCS Current Affairs

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