



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
Only IAS Academy by Grandson of "Perunthalaivar Kamarajar"

Burevestnik Missile (SSC-X-9 “Skyfall”)

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Overview

Origin: Russia

NATO Codename: SSC-X-9 “Skyfall”

Type: Ground-launched, nuclear-powered cruise missile

Role: Strategic deterrence and second-strike capability

Key Features

Parameter	Details
Propulsion System	Small nuclear reactor heats incoming air to generate thrust — eliminating dependence on conventional fuel.
Range	Practically unlimited — can fly intercontinental distances without refueling.
Endurance	Can loiter for days , allowing unpredictable trajectories and surprise strikes.
Warhead Type	Nuclear-capable (can carry nuclear payloads).
Flight Profile	Low-altitude , terrain-hugging path designed to evade radar detection and missile defense systems.
Launch Platform	Ground-based mobile launchers.

Strategic Significance

Designed to bypass U.S. and NATO missile defense systems by using unpredictable routes and long-duration flight.

Symbolizes Russia’s focus on next-generation deterrence and asymmetric response to Western technological dominance.

If operational, could alter the nuclear deterrence balance and intensify global arms race dynamics.

Concerns & Risks

Nuclear safety hazards: Possibility of radioactive contamination in case of crash or malfunction (as seen in 2019 test accident in Russia).

Arms control challenge: Not covered under existing treaties like New START.

Raises environmental and proliferation concerns due to onboard nuclear reactor.

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