



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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HAMMER Precision-Guided Weapon (AASM)

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The HAMMER (Highly Agile and Manoeuvrable Munition Extended Range) is a French-designed **Air-to-Surface Modular (AASM)** precision-guided weapon system.

Key Features and Significance for India

- **Type:** It is an **Air-to-Surface Precision Strike Weapon** (often called a 'glide bomb').
- **Manufacturer:** Developed by the French firm **Safran Electronics & Defence**.
- **Functionality:** HAMMER consists of a guidance kit and a range extension kit attached to standard unguided bombs (250 kg, 500 kg, or 1000 kg).
- It uses a combination of **INS (Inertial Navigation System)** and **GPS** guidance for high accuracy. Some variants can include laser/imaging guidance.
- **Range and Capability:** Effective strike range of up to **70 km**. Its key advantage is the ability to strike targets with high accuracy, even in difficult terrains or at low altitudes, with anti-jamming capability.
- **India's Context:**
- **Acquisition:** India initially procured HAMMER to rapidly enhance the strike capability of its **Rafale fighter jets**, especially following heightened border tensions.
- **'Make in India' Defence:** The recent agreement between **Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)** and Safran to **jointly manufacture** the HAMMER weapon system in India marks a significant step towards **indigenization** under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' initiative in the defence sector.
- **Platform Integration:** It is modular, allowing for easier integration with other Indian aircraft platforms like the **LCA Tejas**.
- **Defence Preparedness:** Focuses on the induction of advanced PGM (Precision-Guided Munitions) to enhance the **Indian Air Force's (IAF) deep strike capability**.
- **Indigenization:** Highlights the shift towards joint production and technology transfer, reducing reliance on foreign weapon systems and strengthening the domestic defence industrial base.

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