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IAF's MiG-29 combat jets to be equipped with ASRAAM missiles

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What is the news?

The Indian Air Force (IAF) plans to equip its MiG-29 fighter jets with a new missile called ASRAAM missile.

What is ASRAAM?

ASRAAM stands for Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile

It is designed for close-range air combat (dogfights)

Developed by European company MBDA

Why is this upgrade important?

Better combat power

The new missile will make MiG-29 jets more powerful in air battles

It improves their speed, accuracy, and response time

Replacing old missiles

It will replace the older R-73 missile

R-73 had a range of 10–15 km, while ASRAAM has more than 25 km range

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Modernisation of IAF

This move is part of India's effort to upgrade older aircraft with modern weapons

Helps keep MiG-29 relevant in modern warfare

What steps has the government taken?

The Ministry of Defence has issued a Request for Proposal (RFP)

It includes: Missile integration, Launch systems & Testing and training

Additional facts

ASRAAM is already used on: LCA Tejas & Jaguar aircraft

The IAF has 50+ MiG-29 jets in service