

Russia Test Fires New Kh-47M2 Kinzhal Hypersonic Missile

What in news:

- MiG-31 jet of the Russian Aerospace Forces conducted a test launch of hypersonic aviation and missile system Kinzhal in a set district. The launch was successful, the hypersonic missile hit the designated target at the field.”
- The missile, supposedly named Kh-47M2 and referred to as the “Kinzhal”, was fired from a modified MiG-31BM

About news:

- Kinzhal is claimed to be a strategic air-to-surface strike missile.
- The missile is claimed to have manoeuvrable flight characteristics not typically seen in hypersonic, solid fuel missiles.
- Observers of Russian missile programs have voiced skepticism about Russia’ performance claims however.
- The Kinzhal missile has a top speed of Mach 10 and maintains some ability to maneuver throughout its performance envelope including at hypersonic speed.
- If accurate, these capabilities could make the Kinzhal difficult to intercept by anti-missile systems.
- The missile is reported to have a range of 1,200 miles (approximately 2,000 kilometers).
- This added to the reported 1,860-mile unrefuelled range of the MiG-31BM long range, supersonic interceptor, gives the Kinzhal potentially intercontinental strike capability.
- The missile is also reported to be nuclear-capable and able to hit ground as well as naval targets.

Prelims expected question

Which of the following country has launched Kinzhal Missile?

- a) Pakistan
- b) Kazakhstan
- c) Russia
- d) Israel

Ans – c

Mains expected question

Q) Recently Russia has Test Fired New Kh-47M2 Kinzhal Hypersonic Missile, Discuss its features and its significance.