

PGMs and development in India



“Fast is fine, accuracy is everything,” said Wyatt Earp (an American lawman in the American West). The deadly package of speed, accuracy, and agility is precision guided munitions (PGMs), which have proven their mettle since WW2 and are still being used in various forms, revolutionising warfare! So, integrating these into countries’ arsenals is not just beneficial; it is essential for future readiness. PGMs are smart munitions that can carry out precision strikes on intended targets, minimising collateral damage using an onboard guidance system.

Understanding PGMs

Historically, armed conflicts around the globe used large amounts of unguided bombs to take on enemy targets. However, as technology progressed, the introduction of PGMs changed the game. These munitions use various guidance systems like GPS, laser or infrared to hit targets with pinpoint accuracy, thereby significantly increasing the probability of a successful strike while minimising unintended effects on surrounding areas. This also reduces the number of ordnance a platform needs to carry to destroy a target.

The strategic implementation of PGMs offers numerous tactical advantages. Foremost among these is the ability to engage high value critical targets without the need for large

scale deployments. This is particularly relevant for countries like India, which faces a multi-front security environment involving both conventional and asymmetric threats.



PGM development in India

The country’s premier defence research organisation, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has made significant strides in developing PGMs. Various projects have been initiated to fulfil the needs of the Indian Air Force. Recently private players have shown great interest in this field, coming up with solutions for drone based PGM, guidance kits and the production of systems developed by DRDO.