Tomahawk missiles

Prelims : Current events of National and International importance

Why in News?

As part of Operation Midnight Hammer, the US used Tomahawk missiles to strike Iran's nuclear sites.

- Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM) is a ***long-range, subsonic cruise missile.***
- **Developed by** - US Navy.
- It is launched from ships or submarines through a Vertical Launch System and used for precision strikes on land-based targets.
- **Features –** It can fly at *low altitudes*, avoiding radar detection, and are guided by advanced GPS, inertial navigation, and terrain contour mapping.
- This makes them highly accurate, with a margin of error of just 10 meters.
- They are built to follow a non-linear path, reducing the chance of interception.
- These missiles have a range ***between 1,000 and 1,500 miles (1,550 to 2,500 km).***
- It measures 18.3 feet long, weighs 3,200 pounds (4,400 with booster).
- The missile is also designed to carry a 1,000-pound conventional warhead or cluster munitions.
- First used during Operation Dust Storm in the 1991 Gulf War.
- The same weapon was used in the 2017 strikes against Syria.

Reference

Hindustan Times | Tomahawk missiles