

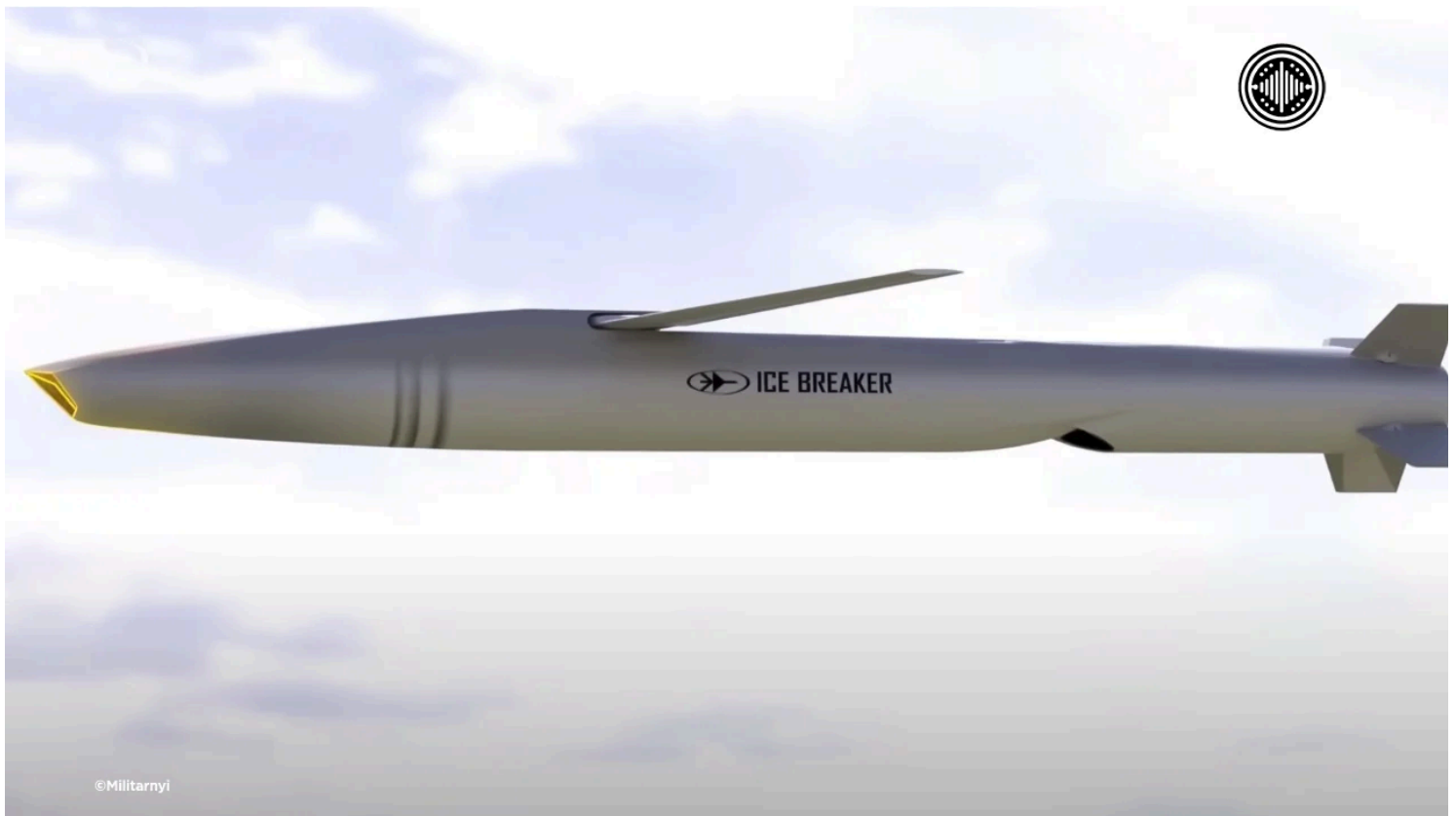
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IAF's LCH Prachand May Get 300-Km Precision Strike Capability with Israeli 'Ice Breaker' Missile

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India's indigenous Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) Prachand could soon be equipped with the cutting-edge 300-kilometer range 'Ice Breaker' missile developed by Israeli defense company Rafael. This development could transform the helicopter into a long-range precision strike platform capable of engaging high-value targets deep behind enemy lines.

Rafael has confirmed that the Ice Breaker missile is compatible with the LCH. A feasibility study indicates that the helicopter, which can carry up to 920 kilograms of armament, can be equipped with one or two Ice Breaker missiles, each weighing around 400 kilograms.

The Ice Breaker is a fifth-generation guided missile designed to destroy both land and maritime targets. It uses a combination of electro-optical guidance, satellite navigation, and advanced algorithms for high-precision targeting. With the capability to fly at high subsonic speeds and conduct complex attack maneuvers, the missile is well-suited for high-altitude, standoff engagements.

Integrating this missile with the LCH would significantly enhance India's aerial strike capabilities, especially in mountainous regions where direct engagements are challenging. The extended range of the missile would allow the LCH to operate from safer distances, avoiding enemy air defenses while delivering accurate strikes.

The Ice Breaker is also being considered for integration with Indian Navy platforms, including the MiG-29K and Rafale M fighters. If adopted across multiple services, it could lead to operational synergy and reduced logistical challenges.

While no official procurement has been announced, the offer by Rafael aligns with India's efforts to upgrade its aerial assets and expand its precision strike capabilities through advanced, versatile weapons systems.