



BrahMos Missiles

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Defense has signed a Rs 1700 crore contract with BrahMos Aerospace Pvt Ltd to buy additional **dual-role capable BrahMos missiles** for the Indian Navy.

- Dual role capability refers to the use of BrahMos missiles for **land as well as anti-ship attacks**. They can be launched from land, air and sea, and all three variants are in service in the Indian armed forces.

What is the Significance of the Deal?

- Induction of these dual-role capable missiles is going to **significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets**.
- The following contract is going to provide **an important boost to indigenous production** of the critical weapon system.
- The BrahMos missiles are also expected to **enhance ammunition with the active participation of indigenous industry**.

What are the BrahMos Missile?

- The BrahMos missile, an Indo-Russian joint venture, **has a range of 290 km** and is the **fastest cruise missile** in the world with a top speed of Mach 2.8 (nearly three times the speed of sound).
 - BrahMos is named for the **rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- It is a **two-stage** (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second) missile.
- It is a multiplatform missile i.e., it can be **launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile** with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It operates on the **"Fire and Forgets" principle** i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.



What are the Recent Development?

- **In April 2022**, an anti-ship version of the [BrahMos supersonic cruise missile](#) was successfully test-fired jointly by the [Indian Navy](#) and the [Andaman and Nicobar Command](#).
- **In January 2022**, an extended range sea-to-sea variant of the [BrahMos supersonic cruise missile](#) was test fired from stealth guided missile destroyer [INS Visakhapatnam](#).

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

Q. What is “Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD)”, sometimes seen in the news? (2018)

- (a) An Israeli radar system
- (b) India’s indigenous anti-missile programme
- (c) An American anti-missile system
- (d) A defence collaboration between Japan and South Korea.

Ans: (c)

Exp:

- Terminal High Altitude Area Defence (THAAD) is an American anti-missile system designed to intercept and destroy short and medium-range ballistic missiles during their “terminal” phase of flight when they are falling towards the target.
- They have the ability to intercept missile inside and outside the atmosphere.
- It is interoperable with other ballistic missile defence systems and is highly mobile and deployable worldwide.
- **Therefore, option (c) is the correct answer.**

Mains

Q. How is S-400 air defence system technically superior to any other system presently available in the world? (2021)

Source: TH