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Important Facts For Prelims (23rd May 2019)

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IAF Test Fires Aerial Version of Brahmos

The Indian Air Force has successfully test-fired the **Aerial version of the Supersonic BrahMos cruise missile from a Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft.**

About Supersonic Brahmos Cruise Missile

- Brahmos is a **two stage** (solid propellant engine in first stage and liquid ramjet in second) **air to surface missile** with a flight range of around 300 km.
- Brahmos is the **heaviest weapon** to be deployed on Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft, with weight of **2.5 tonne**.
- Brahmos is a **multiplatform** 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 "**Fire and Forget**" principle i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- It is a joint venture between **Defence Research and Development Organisation of india (DRDO) and NPOM of Russia.**
- Brahmos is named on the rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva.
- Brahmos is one of the **fastest cruise missile** currently operationally deployed with speed of **Mach 2.8**, which is 3 times more than the speed of sound.
- Brahmos Missile also created history on 22 Nov 2017 after it was successfully flight tested **first time from Indian Air Force's (IAF) frontline fighter aircraft Sukhoi-30 MKI against a sea based target in bay of bengal.**

India's First Woman Pilot Qualified for Combat Missions

- **Flight Lieutenant Bhawana Kanth** has become the **first woman pilot** of the Indian Air Force to qualify to **undertake combat missions by day** on a fighter jet.
- In order to be declared 'Operational by Day', a pilot has to complete the syllabus which proclaims him/her fit to fly during the day. Kanth has successfully completed the

operational syllabus for carrying out combat missions on MiG-21 Bison aircraft, during the day.

The MiG-21 is the oldest frontline combat jet in service with the Indian Air Force, having first entered service in 1964. The jet has been regularly upgraded since then. **The MiG-21 "Bison" is the definitive variant of the legacy fighter.**

- **Along with Mohana Singh and Avani Chaturvedi, she was the first woman selected for the Air Force's fighter stream in 2016.**

She joined the fighter squadron in 2017 and flew solo on MiG-21 Bison last year.

- As per a government data, the Army has 3.80% of its workforce as women, the Air Force has 13.09% and the Navy 6%.

This year, the government has planned to induct women in the military police, with an aim to enhance their representation in the three services.