



Formidable BRAHMOS buttresses India's military might

Its induction into all three services is a game-changer

India, facing the challenges of an increasingly volatile neighbourhood and a swiftly changing world order, has made its intentions clear of strengthening its Armed Forces by equipping them with the most advanced defence platforms, weapons and systems. As a major Asian power, India has dealt with war in the past and is now preparing itself well to face any kind of eventuality. Among the many advanced equipment the

country's Armed Forces are acquiring, the induction of the BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system in all three wings of the Services has certainly empowered the country to take on an adversary without fear.

As the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile system, BRAHMOS has established its credibility as a deadly tactical weapon capable of destroying any kind of enemy target and vital installations in the shortest possible time. The missile, having land-attack and anti-ship capabilities, has been deployed in the Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. For the Army's artillery division,



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BRAHMOS has formed the backbone, having been deployed in all strategic areas of the country.

While three BRAHMOS regiments consisting of the advanced Block III configuration with supersonic steep dive capability have made their way into the Army, the government has also cleared a fourth BRAHMOS regiment for deployment in the country's Eastern sector.

Two successful test firings of the missile by the Army in May 2015 had revalidated the superiority of BRAHMOS as a tactical strike weapon capable of knocking down enemy targets even in the most difficult and hidden terrains without any collateral damage.

As for the Navy, 10 of its frontline warships have been armed with the lethal, state-of-the-art weapon, while many futuristic naval platforms are also going to deploy BRAHMOS. The missile has also proved its underwater firing capability and can equip the Navy's submarines in the near future.

Similarly, the Indian Air Force has operationalised the mobile land-attack variant of the missile. And in yet another recent development, the missile's air-to-ground version, BRAHMOS-A, has successfully undergone its maiden demonstration flight test from the IAF's long-range strike fighter Sukhoi-30MKI-a first-in-the-world feat. The maiden sortie of the IAF fighter carrying the formidable BRAHMOS air-launched cruise missile (ALCM) achieved a perfect take-off and landing at HAL, Nasik during the test flight conducted on June 25, 2016.

The entire world is keeping a close watch on this development because never before in the world has such a powerful weapon been tested by such a heavy, long-range strike fighter of an air force.

The BRAHMOS-A missile programme has been a very challenging one since the beginning and involved several technical modifications both in the missile as well as in the Russian-built air platform of Sukhoi-30.

The successful culmination of this ambitious project promises to not only multiply the tactical combat potential of the Indian Air Force but also make BRAHMOS an ultimate "game-changer" in modern-day's complex battlefields and conflict scenarios.

The successful deployment of BRAHMOS ALCM is set to complete the tactical cruise missile triad by it being launched from land, sea and air-again a capability not achieved by any country other than India.

The BRAHMOS thus continues to and will continue to take India's military might to incredible heights, making its adversary reluctant to attempt any misadventure against its sovereignty and territorial integrity.