

BRAHMOS - Indian Army's Frontline Weapon System

THE INDIAN Army, with a proud history of valour, is one of the largest armies of the world infused with high technology based precision weaponry and esprit-de-corps ingrained in the entire rank and file. With India facing many security challenges from time to time, the Army, operating from the most difficult and sensitive terrain in the country, has successfully carried out numerous complex operations to protect the nation from any internal or external threats.

The Indian Army is fully geared with state-of-the-art weapon systems to ensure the sovereignty of the nation by defeating any security challenges which may emerge in the foreseeable future. Indian Army, to add more firepower to its capabilities, has equipped itself with the world's leading supersonic cruise missile — BRAHMOS. The land-based missile system consists of four to six mobile autonomous launchers, a mobile command post and mobile replenishment vehicle.

The BRAHMOS Supersonic Cruise Missile is a state-of-the-art weapon system having no competitors, till date. India and Russia jointly established 'BrahMos' to design, develop, produce and market a world class supersonic cruise missile system. After proving its prowess with unmatched speed, precision and power, both in land and sea, BRAHMOS air-launched version is getting ready to be test-flown from the Su-30MKI fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force in the coming months.

The supersonic cruise missile with a fine combination of speed, precision and power, has three times more velocity, 2.5 to 3 times more flight range, 3 to 4 times more seeker range and nine times more kinetic energy than any existing subsonic cruise missiles. The multi-platform, multi-target cruise missile, carrying a conventional warhead weighing 200 to 300 kg, is capable of flying up to 290-km at a top speed of 2.8Mach.

The land-attack version of BRAHMOS has been operationalised in the Army since 2007. The Indian Army has already inducted three regiments of mobile land-based configuration of BRAHMOS in its arsenal. All are equipped with Block-III version of missile. The weapon's accuracy in mountain warfare mode was recently re-established in a campaign conducted by the Indian Army in the Eastern Sector in



2015. In 2016, the Defence Minister announced the induction of many more regiments in the Army which will upgrade its air defence capabilities. Last year, the government also sanctioned induction of additional BRAHMOS missiles, with steep dive capability and 290-km range, in the Eastern sector to ramp up its capabilities along the border. The steep dive attack cruise missile can hit enemy targets hidden in the shadows of mountains.

The Indian Army has truly benefitted from the induction of BRAHMOS weapon system. The 'fire-and-forget' missile has the capability to take on surface-based targets by flying a combined hi-lo trajectory, thus evading enemy air defence systems. Inclusion of the powerful strike missile in Indian Army has given it a distinct tactical advan-

tage to knock down any enemy target even in the most difficult terrains hidden behind the geographical features.

Today, with numerous launches from various platforms, each achieving technological prowess with continuous upgrades BRAHMOS is a system par excellence. BrahMos is supplying the missile system to all three wings of Indian Armed Forces and undertaking continuous performance improvements, upgradations and new versions.

Finally, BrahMos has proved to the world that a joint venture of advanced technology can lead to a high performance product in shortest possible time with far-reaching dividends.

BrahMos felicitates the Indian Army on ARMY DAY.

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(Online)

New portable bridge to help ease troop movement for high altitude region

Pune: The Indian Army's troops will soon be able to move faster in high altitude regions, thanks to the Mountain Foot Bridge (MFB) developed by the city's Research and Development Establishment (Engineers) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).

The bridge made of high-strength aluminium alloys costs below Rs 1 crore. Capable of withstanding conditions prevailing in high altitude regions like Siachen, it will soon be inducted in the force.

Experts from the laboratory claimed that user trials were positive and had achieved desired results according to the requirement fixed by the Indian Army.

L N Bhosale, a technical officer, told TOI, "The trials were carried out at Siachen glacier and in Arunachal Pradesh over two years. Their results are positive. As a result, the army has decided to induct the bridge."

According to experts, a 35-metre MFB can be assembled in about two hours. It can allow accumulation of fresh snow up to half-a-metre while people negotiate the bridge at a spacing of about 3 metres.

The MFB can bridge dry/wet gaps up to 34.5 metre with a pathway of 0.8 metre width. "This facility will enable troop movement in regions, where covering even a metre's distance is challenging," he said.

DRDO officials said mass production of the bridge would be done after the completion of Transfer of Technology.