

## Carry on Tejas

*The program to design a naval variant of the TEJAS was initiated in 2003*

It is a moment of pride for Indian defence researchers when the naval version of Tejas achieved a key milestone by successfully undertaking the maiden ski-jump take-off from INS Vikramaditya. The landing as well as take-off by the indigenously-built Tejas Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) has put India among a select group of five nations in the world having the capability to design such a jet, which can operate from an aircraft carrier. The landmark event was a tribute to the professional commitment and synergy among various agencies involved in the project, including Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), Aircraft Research and Design Centre of Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, Centre for Military Airworthiness and Certification (CEMILAC) and CSIR. It has been a long and arduous journey for defence scientists and engineers in bringing the fighter aircraft development programme to fruition. The Indian Air Force has already inducted a batch of Tejas aircraft. Initially, the IAF had placed an order with the Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) for 40 Tejas aircraft. In 2018, the IAF issued the request for a proposal (RFP) to HAL for the procurement of another batch of 83 Tejas at a cost of over Rs 50,000 crore. Despite the latest achievement that demonstrated technological talent, design expertise and engineering competence, India still remains an underperformer in the military-industry field with the DRDO lagging behind the delivery schedules on many key projects. Even seven decades after independence, India is yet to attain self-reliance in military hardware and is heavily dependent on import of defence equipment. This certainly makes national security vulnerable.

India needs to develop the capability for design and serial production of its own weapon systems, particularly in the wake of Pakistan acquiring a steady stream of weapon systems from its all-weather friend China. Despite having the world's fourth-largest armed forces, India has to depend on imports for everything, ranging from tanks, submarines, fighters, missiles and artillery to small arms and ammunition. Even a prestigious project like LCA was bogged down by inordinate delays due to bureaucratic indifference and lethargy. Similarly, uncertainty has surrounded the turbojet 'Kaveri' engine project. India could have gained massive strategic advantage if there was a sustained focus on indigenous military industry. Starting from a similar base in the 1950s, the defence industries of China, Brazil, South Korea and Turkey have left India miles behind. Self-sufficiency in military hardware has not received due attention from the political leadership, with successive defence ministers failing to appreciate the need for enhancing investments in defence research and development and providing impetus to vital indigenous projects. As a result, there has been a mismatch between the combat requirements of armed forces and the delivery schedules of the DRDO.

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# BRAHMOS has reinforced Indian Army's combat potential

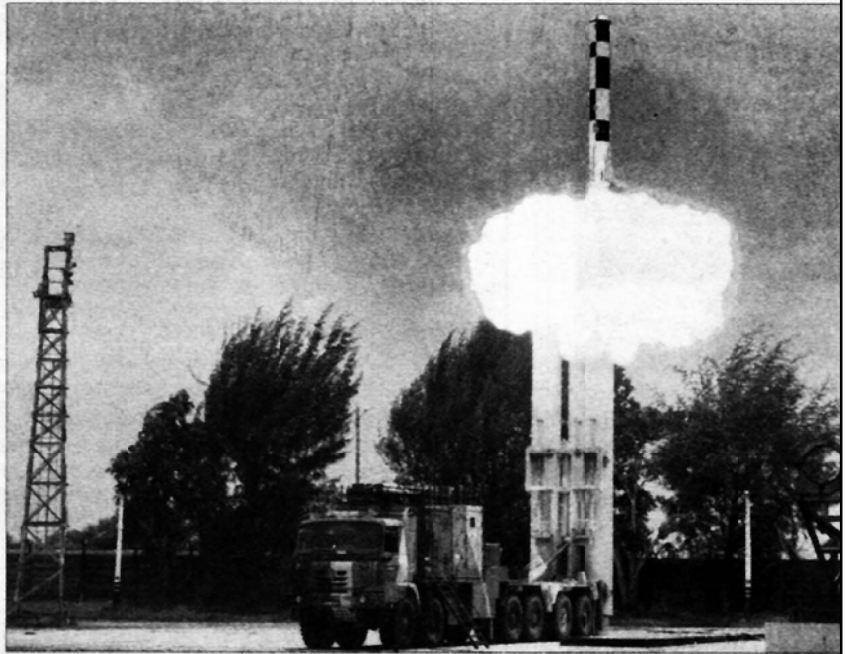
**I**NDIAN ARMY, one of the largest land forces in the world, has fortified its strength and stature by fielding a unique, state-of-the-art precision attack weapon – BRAHMOS. Being the only land force in the world to deploy the fastest and deadliest cruise missile, Indian Army has enhanced its artillery firepower manifold.

The land-attack BRAHMOS has validated its impeccable strike power with ultimate precision in divergent operational modes such as "top attack", "target discrimination" and "deep penetration" from varied and most difficult land terrains in the country, during a number of flight tests conducted till date. The Army has raised a number of BRAHMOS LACM (and attack cruise missile) regiments to conduct modern-day complex land warfare missions.

With India's increasing thrust on "Jointness" in defence operations wherein the Indian Army is getting ready to deploy its Integrated Battle Groups in the near future, a highly versatile and formidable weapon like BRAHMOS promises to provide necessary impetus in this direction. The "fire & forget", "quick-reaction" missile has proved its capability to be swiftly deployed in a possible conflict zone at very short notice and can be activated without any delay.

The versatile BRAHMOS has been deployed with the Indian Navy since 2005. The weapon's advanced air-launched version which has undergone a number of successful test-firings so far, is also getting ready for induction in the Indian Air Force.

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The multi-role, multi-platform, multi-mission missile has thus emerged as India's ultimate "force multiplier" in a modern, network-centric warfare scenario.

Meanwhile, BrahMos Aerospace, the India-Russia JV entity engaged in the design, development and production of the powerful BRAHMOS for the Indian Armed Forces, has been making persistent efforts to incorporate major indigenous components in the weapon system to bolster India's national security even while providing a major fillip to the Government's "Make-In-India" efforts. The successful test-firings of land-attack BRAHMOS carried out on September 30, 2019 and December 17, 2019 have validated some of those indigenous technologies and systems including the seeker, airframe and propulsion system.

After developing and delivering BRAHMOS land-attack weapon to the Army in Block I, II and III configurations, BrahMos Aerospace is steadily progressing in its efforts to develop yet another advanced version, Block IV, having "near vertical dive and surround attack" capability to knock off ground-based targets at an angle of 90-degree directly from the top. Together with range extension, these capabilities would give the Army an unparalleled edge in mounting surprise attacks on hidden enemy positions in the hinterland. The timely destruction of the enemy's war-waging resources and logistic strongholds by precision strikes of BRAHMOS would ensure out-of-proportion dividends for the Indian Army.

By making BRAHMOS the mainstay of its artillery firepower, the Indian Army has not only reinforced its combat potential, but also strengthened India's defence preparedness against the backdrop of a rapidly evolving security environment.

BrahMos Aerospace congratulates the Indian Army on the 72nd Army Day.