

## **In a first, India acquires floating test range capability for testing missiles at sea**

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New Delhi: For the first time ever, India has finally acquired a defence capability that will be a game changer for the forces. Sources say that India has developed a floating test range that will be soon used to test missiles. The first FTR has been stationed at sea. Developed by the DRDO, the FTR is actually a 10,000-tonne ship that can be used as a launchpad for the missiles. The speciality of FTR is that the missile tests can be carried out without the issues of trouble to local population or any land limitation. This means that the missile tests from FTR would be largely hassle-free.

Only few nations around the world have similar defence capability. According to a report by the Hindustan Times, apart from the testing launchpad, the FTR will also be used to destroy enemy missiles in mid-air. FTR will enable the authorities carry out such missile tests at much shorter notice as there would be no requirement of any notice from the local authorities.



The FTR, however, won't be used to test Agni missiles.

“The FTR has all the capabilities of Interim Test Range (ITR) with the capability to test missiles in deep sea with minimum safety precautions as the latter allows only a cone of two to three degrees to launch a missile. It is for testing all missiles including BMD,” a senior official was quoted as saying by The Hindustan Times.

The FTR, however, won't be used to test Agni missiles. “The FTR has all the capabilities of Interim Test Range (ITR) with the capability to test missiles in deep sea with minimum safety precautions as the latter allows only a cone of two to three degrees to launch a missile. It is for testing all missiles including BMD,” a senior official was quoted as saying by The Hindustan Times. The FTR is part of India's ambitious Phase II of the ballistic missile defence . In April this year, the phase one of the Ballistic Missile Defence programme was completed. While Phase-II is about covering the skies of eastern India, the Phase-I was about securing national capital Delhi and financial hub Mumbai.

<https://www.newsnation.in/india/news/in-a-first-india-acquires-floating-test-range-capability-for-testing-missiles-at-sea-242442.html>

## Philippine Army shows interest to buy India's BrahMos supersonic cruise missile to increase its coastal security

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The Philippine Army has shown a keen interest in buying the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile, regarded as the world's fastest supersonic missile, in order to strengthen its coastal defences.

Major General Reynaldo Aquino, the Vice Commander of the Philippine Army, confirmed this over the weekend while undertaking a tour of the visiting Indian Navy Ship (INS) Sahyadri docked in the country's capital Manila.

Philippine Army wants BrahMos missile as its First Land-Based Missile System Battery (1LBMS).

Philippine Army spokesperson Lt. Col. Ramon Zagala also confirmed that Major General Reynaldo Aquino and INS Sahyadri Commanding Officer Captain Ashwin Arvind discussed the possible acquisition of the BrahMos missile.



The Indian-manufactured weapons system is a medium-range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft, or land. The BrahMos missile, with a flight range of 290 kilometres, can ensure the lower dispersion of targets, quicker engagement time and non-interception by any known weapons system in the world. It is the world's fastest anti-ship cruise missile in operation.

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It was successfully test-fired at 10.20 am on September 30, 2019, from Chandipur in Odisha for its full range of 290-km during the launch jointly conducted by DRDO and BrahMos Aerospace. The successful flight test was a landmark achievement in enhancing India's "Make in India" capabilities. While several nations have expressed interest in the BrahMos, India has yet to secure an export deal for the weapon, which was first tested in 2001.

Last year when Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited the Philippines, India and Philippines signed four agreements, including one to step up bilateral cooperation in the defence and logistics sector.

<https://www.opindia.com/2019/10/philippines-buy-india-brahmos-supersonic-cruise-missile/>