

Navy buys enhanced BrahMos missiles

Can shore targets 400 km away; deal value ₹1,700 crore

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Providing impetus to “Aatmanirbharta” (self-reliance) in defence production, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) signed a contract on Thursday with the Indo-Russian joint venture (JV) – BrahMos Aerospace Private Limited (BAPL) – for buying the latest version of the BrahMos missile for its newest warships.

So far, BrahMos missiles have had a range of 295 kilometres, to adhere to the parameters of the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR), which restricts missile sales involving a non-MTCR country to a maximum range of 300 km. However, with India’s admission into the MTCR, a new generation of BrahMos missiles, with ranges of 400 km and more, can legitimately be built by the Indo-Russian JV. The surface-to-surface BrahMos missiles were bought for “an overall approximate cost of ₹1,700 crore under the Buy-Indian category,” stated the MoD on Thursday. These new BrahMos missiles will be “dual-role capable”, announced the Navy, which means that its warships can fire them at targets on land, as well as at enemy warships.

“It is notable that BAPL [is] making a crucial contribution to augment the new generation surface-to-surface missiles with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks,” stated the MoD after signing the contract.

“These missiles are going to significantly



A BrahMos missile being launched from the destroyer, INS Ranvir

enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy (IN) fleet assets,” it said. BrahMos Aerospace JV was established through an Indo-Russian Inter-Government Agreement (IGA) in February 1998 for designing, developing, producing and marketing the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile. The JV’s share capital of \$250 million was contributed by India and Russia in the ratio of 50.5 per cent and 49.5 per cent, respectively. The share capital was enhanced by \$50 million to pay for developing the aircraft version of the missile, which is fired from the Sukhoi-30MKI fighter.

Additionally, the Defence R&D Organisation also contributed ₹370 crore towards the infrastructure, technologies and production facilities for building the missile system.