



New Defence Weapons Approved

Why in News

Recently, the [Defence Acquisition Council \(DAC\)](#) approved several proposals that will boost the combat capabilities of all three services—Army, Navy and the Air Force.

Key Points

- **Proposals:** It includes **buying of missile systems and additional fighter jets.**
 - The government will buy 33 aircrafts, which include 21 MiG-29s from Russia, 12 new Sukhoi-30 fighters from [Hindustan Aeronautics Limited \(HAL\)](#).
 - It also includes upgradation of 59 MiG-29 jets.
 - Under the missile system, the government will buy **Pinaka ammunition, Astra Beyond Visual Range (BVR) air-to-air missiles, land-attack cruise missile (LACM) systems with a range of 1,000 km** among others.
- **Cost of Proposal:** It will cost around Rs. 39000 crore. The acquisitions from Indian Industry will cost around Rs. 31,130 crore and rest acquisitions will be done from Russia.



- **Pinaka Ammunition:** //
 - It is an **all-weather, indirect fire, free flight artillery rocket** system developed by [Defence Research and Development Organisation \(DRDO\)](#).
 - The Pinaka weapon system consists of Rocket, Multi Barrel Rocket launcher, Battery Command Post, Loader cum Replenishment Vehicle, Replenishment Vehicle and Digicora MET Radar.



▪ **Astra Missiles:**

- **Astra missile** is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is a **Beyond Visual Range (BVR)** class of **Air-to-Air Missile (AAM) system** designed to be mounted on fighter aircraft. It has capability to destroy the enemy targets which are beyond their visual range.
- The missile has all weather day and night capability and will serve as a force multiplier and immensely add to the strike capability of the Navy and Air Force.

▪ **Long-Range Land Attack Cruise Missile Systems:**



- It is developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- It is aimed at enhancing the firing range of the **Brahmos missile** from 400-500 km to 1000 km.
- Its features include aerodynamic configuration, vertical launch using solid booster, thrust vector control system, booster separation, in-flight wing deployment, in-flight engine start and long range way-point navigation system”.
- The proposed development of fully indigenous long-range land attack cruise missiles can greatly enhance the operational capability of services.



▪ **MIG 29 Fighter jets:**

- It is a **twin-engine, multirole fighter jet, developed by the Soviet Russia** in the 1970s. It has been upgraded since.



▪ **Su-30 MKI Fighter jets:**

- The Sukhoi Su-30 is a **twin-engine, two-seat supermaneuverable fighter aircraft** developed by Russia's Sukhoi Aviation Corporation.
- It is a multirole fighter for all-weather, air-to-air and air-to-surface deep prohibition missions.

Defence Acquisition Council

- It is the **highest decision-making body in the Defence Ministry** for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The **Minister of Defence is the Chairman** of the Council.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on '**Reforming the National Security System**', in 2001, post Kargil War (1999).

Source: IE