

# DAC OKs defence procurement worth ₹3,000cr

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**New Delhi:** The defence ministry on Saturday approved two military procurement proposals worth around Rs 3,000 crore, which included Brahmos supersonic cruise missiles for the Navy's two stealth frigates to be built in Russia under a recent Rs 8,000 crore contract inked between the two countries

The other procurement cleared by the defence acquisitions council, chaired by minister Nirmala Sitharaman, was for indigenous armoured recovery vehicles (ARVs) for the Arjun main-battle tanks with the Army. "The ARVs, which have been developed by DRDO and will be manufactured by defence PSU BEML, will ensure efficient and speedy repair and recovery operations of the Arjuns during combat," said an official.

The BrahMos missiles will be the primary weapon system on-board the 4,000-tonne Grigorovich or Talwar-class stealth frigates. While the first two frigates will be imported from Russia for around Rs 8,000 crore, the next two will be built at the Goa Shipyard with transfer of technology at an overall cost of around Rs 13,000 crore.

Jointly developed by India and Russia, the BrahMos missile flies at almost three times the speed of sound.

The Army is now preparing to induct the 4th BrahMos Regiment, which will be the missile's Block-III version that has steep dive, trajectory manoeuvre and top-attack capabilities. The Navy has deployed the BrahMos

missiles on over 10 frontline warships, while the IAF has also inducted two squadrons of the land-launched missiles.