

## **DRDO missile was the 1st choice, not Spice-2000**

*The SAAW weapon successfully completed tactical tests with a high degree of accuracy*

*By Coreena Saures*

Hyderabad: The day after the Pulwama attack, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) received directions from the highest authorities to prepare to strike back to avenge the deadly terror strike in the Kashmir valley.

Officials from the National Security Agency, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), the three serving chiefs of the Indian forces, DRDO scientists and other stakeholders met the following day in a high-level security meeting in which it was decided in principle that the Smart Anti-Airfield Weapon (SAAW), developed indigenously by DRDO, be used in retaliation.

DRDO scientists began working on assembling the SAAW to the mother aircraft, the French-origin Mirage 2000 jets that were used in the Balakot attack, according to the IAF. The weapon was specially made to hit the target with a high level of accuracy.

A few days before the operation, the DRDO's SAAW was dropped and instead the Spice-2000 manufactured by the Israeli defence technology company Rafael, was used.

“Scientists at DRDO over two weeks began assembling the SAAW. The smart guide bomb that was assembled was relatively smaller (in size) when compared to the Israeli Spice-2000, if used it has the capability of escaping the enemy's radar. With high accuracy, it has been developed with an equal class of up to 1000 kg. However, SAAW was replaced by Spice-2000,” said an insider.

The SAAW weapon successfully completed tactical tests with a high degree of accuracy.

The guided bomb (SAAW) is integrated with a live warhead and has destroyed targets with a high degree of precision in tests conducted at the Chandan range.

<https://www.deccanchronicle.com/nation/current-affairs/300419/drdo-missile-was-the-1st-choice-not-spice-2000.html>

## **Cyclone "fani" forces air force to postpone brahmos missile testfiring**

*The air-launched version of the BrahMos was to be testfired by the Air Force over southern India this week for giving a homegrown weapon system to the force for carrying out Balakot-type air strikes*

New Delhi: In view of the cyclone storm "Fani", the Indian Air Force (IAF) and BrahMos Aerospace have put on hold the testfire of the air-launched version of supersonic cruise missile from a Sukhoi-30 combat aircraft.

The air-launched version of the BrahMos was to be testfired by the Air Force over southern India this week for giving a homegrown weapon system to the force for carrying out Balakot-type air strikes.

"The testfire has been postponed due to the cyclone storm "Fani" for the moment but we will be doing it soon," government sources said.

The cyclonic storm "Fani" on Monday morning was located at 880 km of South-East of Chennai and it will continue to move North-West and change its path to North-East from Wednesday.

The cyclone is expected to intensify into a very severe cyclonic storm by Tuesday.

Seeking to further bolster its ability to destroy major ground targets, the IAF and DRDO are planning to testfire the air-launched version of the world's fastest supersonic cruise missile BrahMos from a Su-30MKI combat aircraft.

Sources in the IAF say that they are very keen for a fast track development of the 290-km strike range missile which can destroy targets on the ground and can be used for Balakot-type air strikes where the planes won't even have to cross enemy borders for the hit.

During Balakot airstrikes, the IAF had used the Spice-2000 bombs launched from a Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft for striking Jaish targets in Balakot town of Pakistan.

With the availability of a BrahMos developed by DRDO, the IAF would be able to destroy similar targets from at least 150 km inside Indian territory.

<https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/cyclone-fani-forces-air-force-to-postpone-brahmos-supersonic-cruise-missile-testfiring-2030485>