

BrahMos Belt Strategy

Prelims: Current events of national and international relations | Defense

Why in News?

India's BrahMos exports to Southeast Asia are creating a "BrahMos Belt" to strengthen regional deterrence against China in the South China Sea.



- **BrahMos Belt** - The term refers to India's expanding network of BrahMos missile partnerships with countries having strategic or maritime concerns involving China.
 - It is *not a formal military alliance*.
- **Philippines** was the first foreign buyer of BrahMos in 2022, through a deal worth about \$375 million.
- **Vietnam** and **Indonesia** have subsequently signed deals.
- **Malaysia** and **Thailand** have also shown interest/evaluated the system.

BrahMos Missile

- BrahMos is a *supersonic cruise missile*.
- **Nomenclature** - Name derived from Brahmaputra + Moskva rivers.
- **Developed by** - BrahMos Aerospace, a joint venture between India's DRDO and

Russia's NPO Mashinostroyenia.

- It is primarily an anti-ship/land-attack cruise missile.
- **Features** - High speed, precision and fire-and-forget capability.
- It can be launched from Land, Warships, Aircraft, Submarine-launched variants have also been developed/tested.
- Its export and deployment enhance coastal defence and maritime deterrence.
- **Strategic Significance for India -**
 - Strengthens India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific engagement.
 - Enhances defence cooperation with ASEAN countries.
 - Provides India with greater strategic influence without direct military deployment.
 - Supports a free, open and rules-based Indo-Pacific.
 - Helps build regional capabilities against potential maritime coercion.

South China Sea

- One of the world's major maritime trade routes.
- China claims around 90% of the South China Sea through its **Nine-Dash Line**.
- China has strengthened its presence through island-building, patrols and military infrastructure.

Important Waterways

- **Malacca Strait** - Connects the *Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean*.
- China's dependence on it is often referred to as the "Malacca Dilemma."
- **Luzon Strait** - Lies *between Taiwan and the Philippines*.
 - Connects the South China Sea with the Pacific Ocean.

Reference

[India Today| Brahmos Belt strategy](#)