



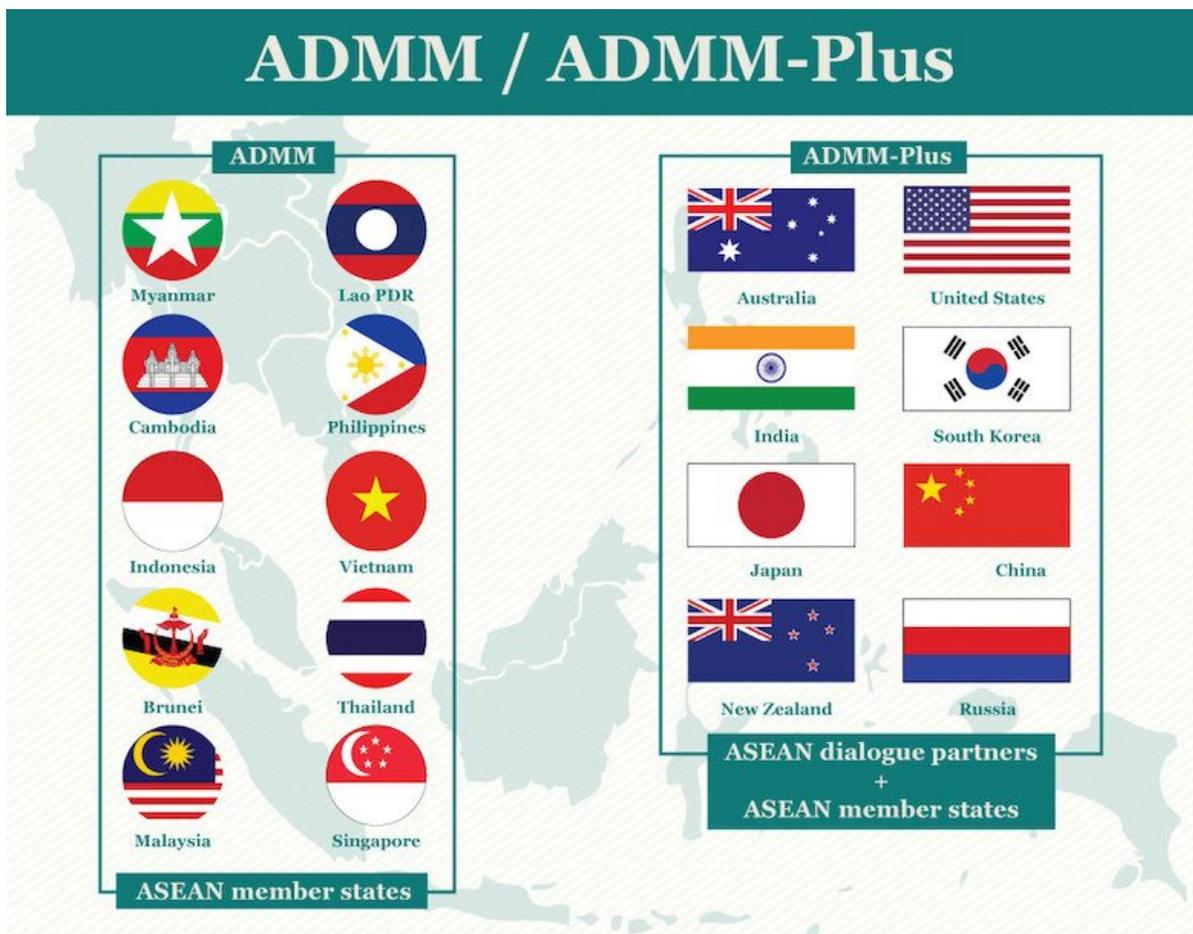
ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

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Why in News

Recently, India's defence minister attended the **14th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus** organized online at Hanoi, Vietnam.

- It marked the **10th anniversary of ADMM Plus**.
- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a regional organization which was established to promote **political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states**.



Key Points

- **About ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus:**
 - **Creation:** The 2nd ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in 2007 at Singapore **adopted a resolution to establish the ADMM-Plus.**
The **first ADMM-Plus** was convened at **Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010.**
 - **Objective:** The **ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its eight Dialogue Partners** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
 - **Membership:** The ADMM-Plus countries include **ten ASEAN Member States and eight Plus countries**, namely **Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States.**
 - **Chairman:** The chairmanship of the **ADMM-Plus follows the chairmanship of the ADMM.**
This year it was chaired by **Vietnam.**
 - **Aim:** It aims to promote **mutual trust and confidence** between defence establishments through greater **dialogue and transparency.**
 - **Areas of cooperation:** Maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.
- **The current meet** comes at the time when India and China remain engaged in a military standoff along the **Line of Actual Control in Ladakh**, and **tensions continue to mount in the South China Sea.**
- **India's Stand at the Meet:**
 - **Future:** The future of the **South East Asian Countries** will be defined by their **ability to collectively respond to challenges** in the region, based on the fundamentals of freedom, inclusivity and openness.
 - **Covid-19:** The response to the pandemic needs to be **collective and collaborative.**
 - **Challenges:** Threats to the **rules-based order, maritime security, cyber-related crimes and terrorism.**
Challenges are becoming increasingly **trans-boundary in character** which requires closer **military-to-military interactions and cooperation amongst the ADMM-Plus countries.**
 - **Tools for Cooperation:** The conduct of **field training exercises and table-top exercises** amongst the ADMM-Plus countries are important tools to **understand each other, cooperate to enhance security and maintain peace in the region.**
Example: **MAITREE** which is an annual training event that is conducted in **India and Thailand alternatively, since 2006.**

Source:IE