



BrahMos Export to Philippines

For Prelims: BrahMos, Missile, South China Sea

For Mains: Defence Technology, Defence Exports.

Why in News?

Recently, **Philippines** has signed a deal with BrahMos Aerospace Private Ltd. for the supply of a **shore-based anti-ship variant of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile**. This is the **first export order for the missile**, a joint product of India and Russia.

- The Philippines wants to induct this missile amid **tensions with China over the [disputed islands in the South China Sea](#)**.
- Several countries have shown interest in acquiring the BrahMos missile. For example, discussions are in advanced stages with **Indonesia and Thailand**.

What are the features of BrahMos Missile?

- BrahMos is a joint venture between the [Defence Research and Development Organisation of India \(DRDO\)](#) and the **NPOM of Russia**.
 - BrahMos is named on the **rivers Brahmaputra and Moskva**.
- It is a **two-stage (solid propellant engine in the first stage and liquid ramjet in second)** missile.
- It is a **multiplatform missile** i.e it can be launched from land, air, and sea and multi capability missile with pinpoint accuracy that works in both day and night irrespective of the weather conditions.
- It operates on the "**Fire and Forgets**" **principle** i.e it does not require further guidance after launch.
- BrahMos is one of the **fastest [cruise missiles](#)** currently operationally deployed with speed of **Mach 2.8**, which is nearly **3 times more than the speed of sound**.
- Recently, an [Advance Version of BrahMos](#) (extended range sea-to-sea variant) was test fired.
 - Following **India's entry into the MTCR (Missile Technology Control Regime) club in June 2016**, the range is planned to be extended to 450 km and to 600km at a later stage.
 - The BrahMos missile was **initially developed with a range capped at 290 km**.

What is Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR)?

- It is an **informal and voluntary partnership among 35 countries** to prevent the proliferation of missile and unmanned aerial vehicle technology capable of carrying greater than **500 kg payload for more than 300 km**.
- The members are thus **prohibited from supplying such missiles and UAV systems that are controlled by the MTCR to non-members**.
- The decisions are taken by **consensus of all the members**.
- This is a non-treaty association of member countries with certain guidelines about the information

sharing, national control laws and export policies for missile systems and a rule-based regulation mechanism to limit the transfer of such critical technologies of these missile systems.

- It was established in **April 1987 by G-7 countries** – USA, UK, France, Germany, Canada, Italy, and Japan.

What is the Status of India's Defence Exports?

- Defence exports are a **pillar of the government's drive to attain self-sufficiency** in defence production.
- Over 30 Indian defence companies have **exported arms and equipment to countries** like Italy, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Russia, France, Nepal, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Israel, Egypt, UAE, Bhutan, Ethiopia, Saudi Arabia, Philippines, Poland, Spain and Chile.
- The **exports include** personal protective items, defence electronics systems, engineering mechanical equipment, offshore patrol vessels, advanced light helicopters, avionics suits, radio systems and radar systems.
- However, India's defense exports are **still not upto the expected lines.**
 - The **Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)** ranked India at **number 23** in the list of major arms exporters for 2015-2019.
 - India still accounts for only **0.17%** of global arms exports.
- Reason for dismal performance in India's Defense exports is that, India's Ministry of Defense so far has **no dedicated agency to drive exports.**
 - Exports are left to individual corporations, like BrahMos or the defence public shipyards and undertakings.
- In this context, the **KPMG report titled 'Defence Exports: Untapped Potential** recommends the first step of setting up of an exclusive **"defence export help desk"**.
 - On the basis of inputs from the help-desk, the report says, Indian companies could work with government machinery to realise exports.
- If India is successful in providing big-ticket military systems to countries in the neighbourhood, it won't just be a boost for defence exports but will also be **a strategic step to counter China's influence** as it provides defence products in Asia, including Pakistan, Bangladesh and Myanmar.

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