BrahMos supplied to Philippines; agreement signed with Vietnam

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News

BrahMos Aerospace CEO and Managing Director Jaiteerth R. Joshi told reporters in Hyderabad on 13 November 2026 that BrahMos missiles have already been supplied to the Philippines and that an agreement has been signed with Vietnam. He said several other South-East Asian countries have shown interest, talks are at an advanced stage, and deals will follow once the government clears them. He noted that demand for BrahMos has risen after 'Operation Sindoor'. The Philippines signed a deal in January 2022, worth about US$375 million, for three batteries of the shore-based anti-ship BrahMos system – making it the first export customer of BrahMos. The first batch was delivered on 19 April 2024 and the second in April 2025. Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh had said on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore on 30 May 2026 that the Vietnam deal had been signed, its value not officially disclosed, and that the Indonesian deal was in its final stages. Reuters has reported that the Philippines may buy more missiles worth about US$800 million.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Stated by	Jaiteerth R. Joshi – CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace (Hyderabad, 13 Nov 2026)
Philippines deal	Jan 2022 – about $375 million – 3 shore-based anti-ship batteries
Deliveries	1st batch 19 Apr 2024; 2nd batch Apr 2025

Point	Details
Vietnam	Agreement signed (confirmed by Defence Secretary, May 2026); value undisclosed
Indonesia	Deal in final stages (as of May 2026)
Joint venture	DRDO + NPO Mashinostroyeniya (Russia) – IGA 12 Feb 1998, Moscow
Name	Brahmaputra + Moskva rivers
First test	12 June 2001 – Chandipur, Odisha

Background

- BrahMos: a supersonic cruise missile jointly made by India and Russia. Under an inter-governmental agreement signed in Moscow on 12 February 1998, DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya formed 'BrahMos Aerospace'. The name comes from the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers. It can be launched from land, ships, submarines and aircraft; the export version has a range of 290 km.
- South China Sea context: both the Philippines and Vietnam have maritime disputes with China in the South China Sea (Spratly and Paracel Islands, Scarborough Shoal). In July 2016, in a case brought by the Philippines, an arbitral tribunal under the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) ruled that China's 'nine-dash line' claim had no legal basis; China rejected it.
- Defence exports: under 'Atmanirbhar Bharat', India is trying to expand defence exports, and BrahMos has become its flagship export weapon. Defence ties with South-East Asian nations are a key pillar of the 'Act East' policy. 'Defence Industrial Corridors' have been set up in two States – Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu.
- India–Vietnam cultural links: the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) conserved and restored the A, H and K groups of temples at 'My Son' – the Hindu temple complex of the Champa kingdom in Da Nang city (formerly Quang Nam province), central Vietnam (UNESCO World Heritage Site, 1999) – during 2017–2022.

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil Nadu: (1) The 'Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor' has five nodes – Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore and Tiruchirappalli; it was launched at Tiruchirappalli on 20 January 2019 by the then Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman. (2) Defence production units such as the Heavy Vehicles Factory at Avadi and the Ordnance Factory and High Energy Projectile Factory at Tiruchirappalli are in the State. (3) There is no confirmed report of BrahMos itself being made in Tamil Nadu, but MSMEs in the corridor supply defence components.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

BrahMos Aerospace CEO and Managing Director Jaiteerth R. Joshi told reporters in Hyderabad on 13 November 2026 that BrahMos missiles have already been supplied to the Philippines and that an agreement has been signed with Vietnam.

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Stated by: Jaiteerth R. Joshi – CEO & MD, BrahMos Aerospace (Hyderabad, 13 Nov 2026); Philippines deal: Jan 2022 – about $375 million – 3 shore-based anti-ship batteries; Deliveries: 1st batch 19 Apr

2024; 2nd batch Apr 2025; Vietnam: Agreement signed (confirmed by Defence Secretary, May 2026); value undisclosed.

What is the background to this news?

BrahMos: a supersonic cruise missile jointly made by India and Russia. Under an inter-governmental agreement signed in Moscow on 12 February 1998, DRDO and Russia's NPO Mashinostroyeniya formed 'BrahMos Aerospace'.

Practice questions (with answers)

1. The name 'BrahMos' is formed by combining the names of which two rivers?

A) Brahmaputra–Volga

B) Brahmani–Moskva

C) Brahmaputra–Moskva

D) Brahmaputra–Neva

Answer: C – Explanation: India's Brahmaputra + the Moskva, which flows through Moscow. The Volga is Europe's longest river; the Neva flows through St Petersburg.

2. Which of the following is NOT a node of the Tamil Nadu Defence Industrial Corridor?

A) Hosur

B) Salem

C) Tiruchirappalli

D) Madurai

Answer: D – Explanation: Madurai. Nodes: Chennai, Hosur, Salem, Coimbatore, Tiruchirappalli; launched at Tiruchi in Jan 2019. The other corridor is in Uttar Pradesh.

3. The tribunal that ruled in 2016 on the Philippines' South China Sea case was set up under which convention?

A) UNCLOS

B) Biodiversity (CBD)

C) Chicago Convention

D) Vienna Convention

Answer: A – Explanation: UNCLOS (1982) – an Annex VII tribunal, with the PCA (The Hague) as registry. It held China's 'nine-dash line' claim had no legal basis.

4. Which UNESCO-listed Hindu temple complex of Vietnam's Champa kingdom did the ASI restore in 2017–22?

A) Angkor Wat

B) Prambanan

C) My Son

D) Vat Phou

Answer: C – Explanation: My Son (Da Nang, formerly Quang Nam province). Angkor Wat is in Cambodia, Prambanan in Indonesia and Vat Phou in Laos (also being restored by the ASI).

5. BrahMos Aerospace is a joint venture between DRDO and which Russian enterprise?

A) Rosatom

B) NPO Mashinostroyeniya

C) Sukhoi

D) Almaz-Antey

Answer: B – Explanation: NPO Mashinostroyeniya – Moscow agreement of 12 Feb 1998. First test: 12 June 2001, Chandipur (Odisha). Almaz-Antey makes the S-400.

Sources: The Week (14 Nov 2026); The Hitavada (14 Nov 2026); Gulf News / Reuters (31 May 2026) – 'India seals BrahMos deal with Vietnam, Indonesia next' (Defence Secretary at Shangri-La Dialogue; reported value ~₹5,800 crore); News On AIR (20 Apr 2024); BrahMos Aerospace; The Tribune (20 Jan 2019); Embassy of India, Hanoi (20 Dec 2022); Permanent Court of Arbitration – South China Sea Arbitration (PCA Case 2013-19), award 12 July 2016. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.