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News: BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles

- Recently, **India delivered BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to the Philippines.** India is looking at further expanding defense ties with the Philippines against the backdrop of growing global concerns over China's increasing military assertiveness in the South China Sea.

BrahMos

- BrahMos is a **medium range ramjet supersonic cruise missile that can be launched from submarine, ships, aircraft or land.**
- This is a **joint venture between the Defence Research and Development Organisation of India (DRDO) and the NPO Mashinostroyeniya 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) air to surface missile with a flight range of around 300 km.**
- However, India's entry into the Missile Technology Control Regime (MTCR) has extended the range of the BrahMos missile to reach 450 km – 600 km, a shade above its current MTCR capped range of 300 km.

- BrahMos is the heaviest weapon to be deployed on Su-30 MKI fighter aircraft, with a weight of 2.5 tonnes.
- BrahMos has a 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 missile currently operationally deployed with speed of Mach 2.8, which is 3 times more than the speed of sound.