Defence & Security · GS - III

India's BrahMos missile deal with the Philippines highlights the growing potential of Southeast Asia as a market for Indian defence exports. Examine the opportunities and challenges in strengthening India's defence-industrial partnerships with the region.

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MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

BrahMos export deal, Act East Policy, defence indigenisation, ASEAN engagement, South China Sea security, strategic partnerships, defence manufacturing, technology transfer, export competitiveness, geopolitical sensitivities.

Model Answer

Introduction

India's $375-million BrahMos missile deal with the Philippines represents an important milestone in its defence-export strategy and engagement with Southeast Asia.

Opportunities

- **Defence exports:** Indigenous systems such as BrahMos, naval platforms and surveillance equipment can expand India's export markets.
- **Strategic partnerships:** Defence cooperation strengthens India's Act East Policy and maritime engagement with ASEAN countries.

- **Regional security:** Defence capabilities can support maritime surveillance and deterrence amid South China Sea tensions.
- **Industrial growth:** Export demand encourages domestic manufacturing, technological innovation and economies of scale.
- **Strategic autonomy:** Diversified defence partnerships offer regional countries alternatives in procurement.

Challenges

- Competition from established global arms exporters.
- Concerns over affordability, maintenance and technology transfer.
- Geopolitical sensitivities arising from regional rivalries.
- Need for reliable after-sales support and timely delivery.

Way Forward

India should strengthen defence diplomacy, joint production, financing mechanisms and long-term maintenance partnerships while respecting ASEAN centrality.

Conclusion

Defence exports can complement India's economic diplomacy and regional security engagement, provided they are supported by competitive manufacturing and sustained partnerships.

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