

By **Manjeet Singh Negi**  
in New Delhi

**OVERCOMING** Russian concerns over sale of BrahMos to a third country, India is set to supply the cruise missiles to Vietnam in a move that is being seen as sending a strong signal to Beijing which is locked in a conflict with Hanoi in the South China Sea.

BrahMos, named after the Brahmaputra and Moskva rivers in India and Russia, is developed jointly by New Delhi and Moscow.

One of deadliest anti-ship missiles in the world, it's a radar-guided supersonic platform with a strike-range of 292 km.

Russia was not comfortable with the idea of selling the missile to a third country as it claimed intellectual property rights. The UPA government could not push for the export to Vietnam fearing backlash from Beijing. The equation has now changed.

Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar is currently on a five-day tour of Singapore and Vietnam. He will be in Hanoi early next week for discussions with Vietnamese defence officials regarding the export of BrahMos, according to Indian official sources.

On its part, the Modi govern-

# India defies China, offers Vietnam missile

ment has signed off on the sale of the missile for Vietnam, which has been keen to procure the system from India for years.

The deal was stuck because of two reasons: Russia's initial objections over export of its intellectual property rights and the previous UPA government's reluctance over fears it would upset the Chinese.

Senior defence officials describe the Indian clearance to equip Vietnam, locked in a con-

flict with China in the South China Sea, with BrahMos as a big and bold policy change carried out by Modi government.

"We expect that those friendly nations with whom neither India nor Russia have any conflict would be keen on buying these missiles,"

Praveen Pathak, spokesman for BrahMos Aerospace, told us India Today. Defence ties between India and

Vietnam have largely centred around New Delhi's capacity-building efforts for Hanoi, especially its navy.

Their bilateral military cooperation has focused on Indian training, repairs and maintenance support for Vietnam.

Four India naval ships, which included the indigenously built stealth frigate INS Satpura and fleet tanker INS Shakti visited the port city of Da Nang in 2013.

Last year, India sent a coast-guard ship, Sarang, to Ho Chi Minh City, according to the external-affairs ministry in New Delhi.

**Russia, which has collaborated in building the missile, had expressed concerns over the move citing IPR issues**

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### India set to discuss sale of BrahMos to Vietnam

India is now set to discuss the possible sale of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles to Vietnam, even as Indian, American and Japanese warships gear up to hold the Malabar exercise off Okinawa from June 10 in a move that has already ruffled the feathers of a prickly China.

Defence sources on Friday said talks on the export of the 290-km range BrahMos missile, which India has jointly developed with Russia, will take place when defence minister Manohar Parrikar visits Vietnam on June 5 and 6. Vietnam has been keen on acquiring the conventional precision-strike missiles, which fly almost three times the speed of sound at Mach 2.8, for several years now. But both India and Russia will have to agree to export them to a third country .

With an eye firmly on China, India has been steadily cranking up its military cooperation with Vietnam as well as continuing with its plan for joint oil exploration in the contentious South China Sea. India is already training Vietnamese sailors on the Russian-origin Kiloclass submarines, while a similar programme on the Sukhoi-30MKI fighters of the IAF is also going to get underway soon, as was earlier reported by TOI.

Parrikar will head for Vietnam after attending the ongoing Shangri-La Dialogue in Singapore. In the backdrop of China's continuing combative attitude in the South China Sea, Parrikar and his Singapore counterpart Ng Eng Hen on Friday stressed that all countries must respect freedom of navigation and right of passage as well as unimpeded commerce and access to resources in international waters. The two countries also agreed on the need to "evolve protocols and norms of behaviour in the air and maritime domains" aimed at building confidence, defusing tensions, and reducing the risk of miscalculations.

While Singapore is not affected by Beijing's belligerence in the South China Sea, where China is locked in territorial disputes with countries like Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and others, it shares India's concerns over the raging dispute.

Parrikar described Singapore as a "major fulcrum" for India in its "Act East" policy in the Asia-Pacific region. Under bilateral agreements inked over a decade ago, India provides facilities to Singapore for military exercises of mechanised forces at Babina and artillery at Deolali ranges, as well as for fighters at the Kalaikunda airbase. The two countries have also been regularly holding the Simbex naval wargames since 1994, which have graduated from being purely anti-submarine warfare exercises to complex ones involving multiple facets of operations at sea.

**पंजाब केसरी.com**

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## ड्रैगन को दरकिनार कर भारत ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल बेचेगा

**नई दिल्ली, (संवाददाता) :** एशिया में चीन के बढ़ते प्रभाव को खत्म करने के लिए भारत ने वियतनाम को ब्रह्मोस सुपरसोनिक क्रूज मिसाइल बेचने का फैसला लिया है। रक्षा मंत्री मनोहर पारिकर सिंगापुर और वियतनाम की पांच दिवसीय यात्रा पर जाएंगे। इस दौरान इस डील पर अंतिम फैसला होने की संभावना है। पारिकर की यात्रा के दौरान वे ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल को लेकर चर्चा करेंगे। वियतनाम बीते पांच साल से ब्रह्मोस मिसाइल की मांग कर रहा है लेकिन पिछली यूपीए सरकार ने चीन की आपत्तियों के डर से वियतनाम को यह मिसाइल नहीं दी थी। इस फैसले को मोदी सरकार की विदेश नीति में बड़ा बदलाव माना जा रहा है। रक्षा मंत्रालय के सूत्रों के मुताबिक प्रधानमंत्री नरेन्द्र मोदी और रक्षामंत्री ने इसके लिए मंजूरी दे दी है। बता दें कि ब्रह्मोस



मिसाइल को भारत और रूस ने साथ में मिलकर विकसित किया है। यह सबसे ताकतवर मिसाइलों में से एक है।

**चीन के साथ बढ़ी है तलखी:** चीन के साथ हाल में कई मुद्दों पर भारत की तलखी सामने आई है। पाकिस्तान में मौजूद आतंकी अजहर मसूद को यूएन से बैन कराने की भारत की कोशिशों को चीन ने विफल कर दिया था। इसके अलावा न्यूक्लियर सप्लायर्स ग्रुप एनएसजी में भारत की एंट्री की कोशिशों में भी चीन ने अड़ंगा लगाने की कोशिश की।