

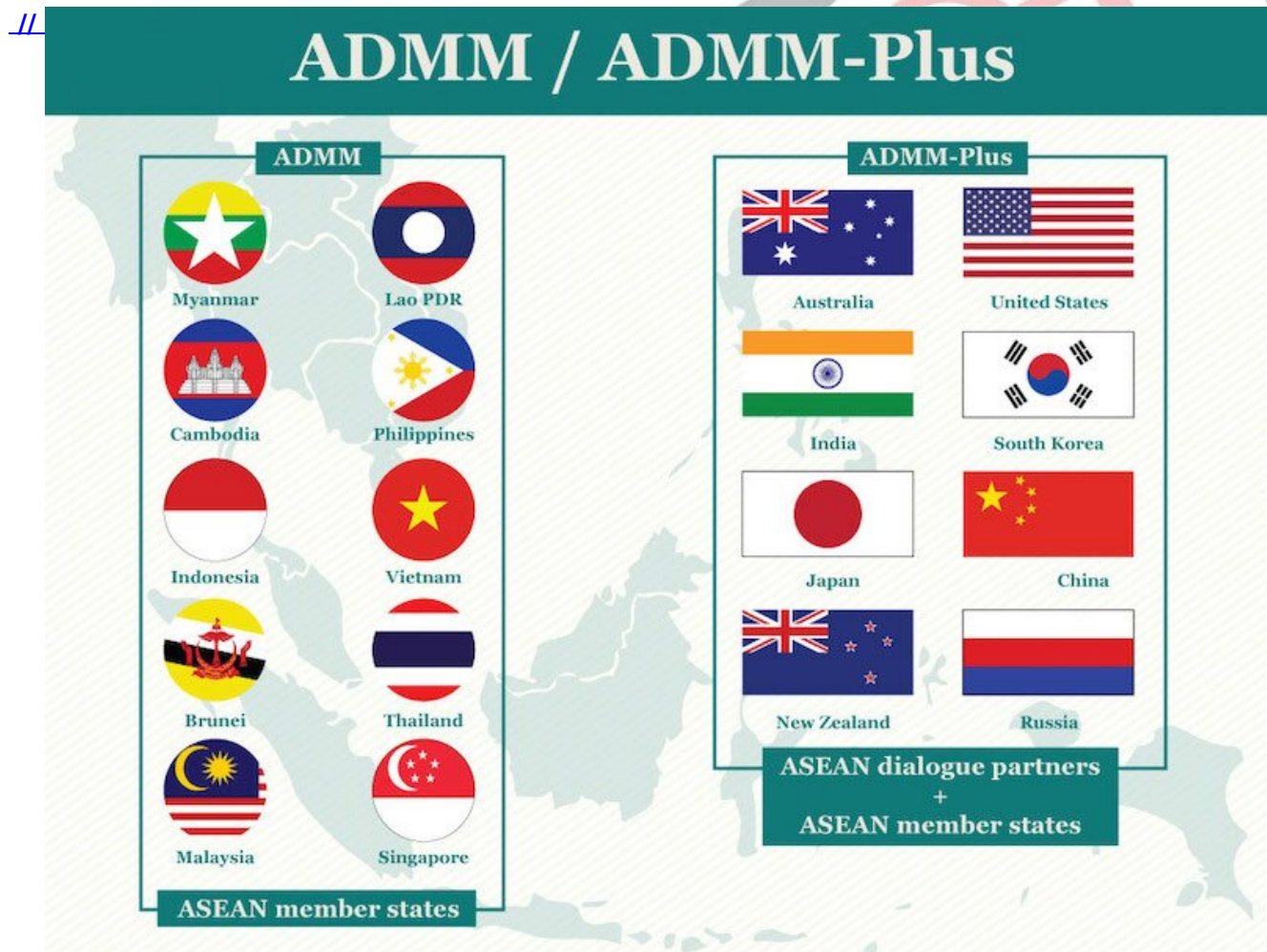


## ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus

### Why in News

Recently, India's defence minister attended the **14<sup>th</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) Plus** organized online at Hanoi, Vietnam.

- It marked the **10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of ADMM Plus.**
- The **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** is a regional organization which was established to promote **political and social stability amid rising tensions among the Asia-Pacific's post-colonial states.**



### Key Points

- **About ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus:**

- **Creation:** The 2<sup>nd</sup> ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM) in **2007** at Singapore adopted a resolution to establish the **ADMM-Plus**.
  - The **first** ADMM-Plus was convened at **Hanoi, Vietnam in 2010**.
- **Objective:** The **ADMM-Plus is a platform for ASEAN (The Association of Southeast Asian Nations) and its eight Dialogue Partners** to strengthen security and defence cooperation for peace, stability, and development in the region.
- **Membership:** The ADMM-Plus countries include **ten ASEAN Member States and eight Plus countries**, namely **Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States**.
- **Chairman:** The chairmanship of the **ADMM-Plus follows the chairmanship of the ADMM**.
  - This year it was chaired by **Vietnam**.
- **Aim:** It aims to promote **mutual trust and confidence** between defence establishments through greater **dialogue and transparency**.
- **Areas of cooperation:** Maritime security, counter-terrorism, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, peacekeeping operations and military medicine.
- **The current meet** comes at the time when India and China remain engaged in a military standoff along the [Line of Actual Control in Ladakh](#), and [tensions continue to mount in the South China Sea](#).
- **India's Stand at the Meet:**
  - **Future:** The future of the **South East Asian Countries** will be defined by their **ability to collectively respond to challenges** in the region, based on the fundamentals of freedom, inclusivity and openness.
  - **Covid-19:** The response to the pandemic needs to be **collective and collaborative**.
  - **Challenges:** Threats to the **rules-based order, maritime security, cyber-related crimes and terrorism**.
    - Challenges are becoming increasingly **trans-boundary in character** which requires closer **military-to-military interactions and cooperation amongst the ADMM-Plus countries**.
  - **Tools for Cooperation:** The conduct of **field training exercises and table-top exercises** amongst the ADMM-Plus countries are important tools to **understand each other, cooperate to enhance security and maintain peace in the region**.
    - Example: [MAITREE](#) which is an annual training event that is conducted in **India and Thailand alternatively, since 2006**.

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