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## India-Indonesia Defence Ministers' Dialogue

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### Why in News

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Recently, the **Defence Ministers' Dialogue** between **India and the Republic of Indonesia** has been held in Delhi.

The **Indonesian Defence Minister General Prabowo Subianto** is in India for strengthening the ties between the two maritime neighbours.

### Key Points

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- At the dialogue, India and Indonesia aimed at injecting a new momentum to their strategic partnership by expanding security cooperation in a range of areas including **defence industries and technology sharing**.
- India conveyed satisfaction on the military to military interactions and indicated that the defence cooperation between both nations has witnessed an upswing in recent years, in consonance with the **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** between the two sides.
- The issue of **possible export of BrahMos cruise missile to Indonesia** by India and ways to **further deepen maritime security cooperation** figured prominently in the talks.
- Even though both countries acknowledge **China's aggressive posturing in eastern Ladakh** and the **South China Sea**, there was **no official statement** on it.

## India-Indonesia



- Both of them have agreed to **work together for peace, security, and prosperity** in order to achieve their shared vision on maritime cooperation in the **Indo-Pacific region**.

The **Strait of Malacca** - waterway connecting the Andaman Sea (Indian Ocean) and the South China Sea (Pacific Ocean) - runs between the Indonesian island of Sumatra to the West and peninsular (west) Malaysia and extreme southern Thailand to the east.

- Both of them recognise the **threat of extremism and terrorism** and have agreed to work closely bilaterally and globally to tackle them.
- India is working with Indonesia to **strengthen the ties in the areas of defence, security, connectivity, trade and investment and people-to-people exchanges**.

- Trade and Commerce:**

- Bilateral trade has increased** from USD 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to USD 21 billion in 2018-19.
- Indonesia has emerged as the **second largest trading partner of India in the ASEAN region**.
- India is the **second largest buyer of coal and crude palm oil** from Indonesia and **imports minerals, rubber, pulp and paper and hydrocarbons reserves**.
- However, there is a **need for greater market access for Indian commodities in Indonesia** including, pharmaceutical, automotive and agricultural products.

- Both countries are members of **G20**, the **Non-Aligned Movement (NAM)**, **East Asia Summit** and the **United Nations**.

- Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:**

The two countries inked a **defence cooperation agreement in 2018** which aimed at reflecting the elevation of the relationship between the two countries to a comprehensive strategic partnership.

- **2019 marked the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary** of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Indonesia.  
In **September 2019**, Indonesia announced that the country's capital would be relocated to **East Kalimantan province** on Borneo island from **Jakarta**.
- **Bilateral Exercises:**
  - Exercise Samudra Shakti the bilateral **maritime** exercise.
  - Garuda Shakti is the **joint military exercise** between India and Indonesia.

## Way Forward

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- India has always acknowledged the long history of mutually beneficial interactions between the two countries with a tradition of close political dialogue, economic and trade linkages as well as cultural and people to people interactions.
- However, to overcome the national and regional challenges, there is a need for a commitment to further strengthen and widen the scope of the bilateral cooperation between the two countries.

**Source: PIB**