



SIMBEX 2021

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Why in News

Recently, India and Singapore have carried out 28th edition of the **Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX)**.

Key Points

- **About:**
 - **Initiated in 1994**, SIMBEX is the **Indian Navy's longest uninterrupted bilateral maritime exercise** with any foreign navy.
 - **28th edition** of SIMBEX was a mega naval wargame **in the southern fringes of the South China Sea**, in reflection of their growing congruence of interests in the strategically key region.
- **Other Defence Cooperation:**
 - Both navies have a representation in each other's **Maritime Information Fusion Centres** and have also recently signed an agreement on **mutual submarine rescue support and coordination**.
 - Singapore participates in **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** and multilateral exercise **MILAN** hosted by the Indian Navy.
 - Singapore's membership of **Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA)** and India's membership of **ADDM+ (ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting - Plus)** provides a platform for both countries to coordinate positions on regional issues of mutual concern.
- **Other Exercises:**
 - **Bold Kurukshetra** (Army)
 - Joint Military Training (Air Force)
 - **Trilateral Maritime Exercise SIMTEX** (with Thailand).

Note:

- Singapore has been **Ranked 2nd** in the most powerful passport report '**Henley Passport Index 2021**'.

- The **first UN treaty to be named after Singapore**, the United Nations Convention on International Settlement Agreements Resulting from Mediation (or, Singapore Convention on Mediation) recently came into force.
- Recently, the **Hawker Culture in Singapore** was inscribed on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Source: TH