



Trilateral Maritime Exercise SITMEX-20

Why in News

Recently, the second edition of the **India, Thailand and Singapore trilateral Naval exercise SITMEX-20** concluded in the Andaman Sea.

Key Points

▪ Background:

- The **Prime Minister of India**, during his keynote address at [Shangri-La Dialogue](#) in **June 2018** announced the conduct of a trilateral naval exercise between India, Singapore and Thailand.
 - The **International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) Shangri-La Dialogue** is **Asia's premier defence summit**. It was **launched in 2002**.
- The **first edition of Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX)**, hosted by **Indian Navy**, was conducted off Port Blair in **September 2019**. SITMEX is conducted **annually**.

▪ Aim: The SITMEX series of exercises are conducted to enhance **mutual interoperability and imbibing best practices** between Indian Navy, Republic of Singapore Navy (RSN) and Royal Thai Navy (RTN).

- It also aims to **strengthen mutual confidence and develop common understanding** and procedures towards enhancing the **overall maritime security in the [Indo-Pacific region](#)**.

- The exercise is in line with [India's SAGAR \(Security and Growth for All in the Region\) vision](#).

▪ 2020 Edition: The 2020 edition of the exercise is being **hosted by RSN (Singapore)**.

- The **Indian Navy** deployed indigenous **Anti-Submarine Warfare corvette INS Kamorta** and **missile corvette INS Karmuk** for the exercise.

▪ Other Military Exercises between India and Thailand:

- [MAITREE](#) (Army)
- SIAM BHARAT (Air Force)
- [Indo-Thai CORPAT \(Navy\)](#), which was conducted recently.

▪ Other Military Exercises between India and Singapore:

- [Bold Kurukshetra](#) (Army)
- Joint Military Training (Air Force)
- SIMBEX (Navy)

- **Indian Navy (IN)** is scheduled to **host the 27th edition of India - Singapore Bilateral Maritime Exercise SIMBEX-20** from 23rd to 25th November 2020 in Andaman Sea.

- It has been **conducted annually since 1994.**

Source: PIB

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