# 5th India – Singapore Defence Ministers' Dialogue

## Why in News

Recently, the **5<sup>th</sup> Defence Ministers' Dialogue (DMD)** between **India and Singapore** was successfully held through a video conferencing.



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## Key Points

- **Agreement Signed :**

- - **Implementing Agreement on Submarine Rescue Support and Cooperation** between the two Navies was signed.
  - **Joint Stand:**
    - **Bilateral Cooperation:**
      - Both the countries conveyed their full support towards the early conclusion of agreements to **facilitate conduct of live firings and to establish reciprocal arrangements for the cross-attendance of military courses.**
      - They welcomed the initiatives to expand bilateral defence cooperation including the implementing agreement on **Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)** cooperation in August 2020.
      - The **cyber agencies** of both armed forces have also **stepped up engagements.**
    - **Impact of Covid-19:**
      - Both countries exchanged views on the impact of the global **Covid-19 pandemic** on the defence and security engagements, including the best practices adopted by their Armed Forces.
    - **Defence Exercises:**
      - Both the countries successfully conducted the **27<sup>th</sup> edition of** Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) and also participated in the second edition of the **Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX)**, both held in November 2020.
      - These **exercises enhance interoperability** amongst the navies and **underscore the shared responsibility** of the countries to **work together to keep sea lines of communications open.**
  - **India's Stand:**
    - India **conveyed gratitude** for the role of the **Singapore Armed Forces,** in supporting foreign workers, many of whom were Indian Nationals, at the peak of pandemic.
    - India reaffirmed **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)** centrality in the regional security architecture and pledged India's support to all endeavours of the **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)-Plus.**
  - **Singapore's Stand:**
    - Singapore complimented India's successes in bringing down the overall numbers of **Covid-19 cases** despite challenges of scale in terms of geography and population.
    - It also expressed **support for India's upcoming co-chairmanship** of the **ADMM-Plus Experts' Working Group on HADR.**

**Note:**

- - **Singapore** has been **ranked 2<sup>nd</sup>** 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 at the 15<sup>th</sup> session of the Intergovernmental Committee (IGC).

# India-Singapore Relation

- - **Defence and Security Cooperation:**

- India and Singapore share **similar concerns** about **the challenges posed by terrorism and extremism** and have found it mutually beneficial to evolve a broad framework of security cooperation.
- Singapore participates in **Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS)** and multilateral Exercise **MILAN** hosted by 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.

- **Science & Technology Cooperation:**

  - **Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO)** launched Singapore's first indigenously built micro-satellite in 2011, 2 more in 2014 and 6 in 2015.
  - In June 2018, both the countries signed six Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in the area of **artificial intelligence**, **machine learning, cognitive computing and big data analytics** to improve **healthcare, cybersecurity, automation, mobility, smart energy systems and e-governance.**

- **Trade and Economic Cooperation:**

  - Singapore is **India's 2$^{nd}$ largest trade partner** among ASEAN countries.
  - **Total** Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) from Singapore into India was **USD 73.3 billion** (till June 2018) which was 19% of total FDI inflow.
  - The **outward Indian FDI to Singapore was USD 62.9 billion** (till August 2018), making Singapore one of the top destinations for Indian investments.
  - In 2018, the High Commission of India also launched a **startup engagement platform, India-Singapore Entrepreneurship Bridge (InSpreneur).**

- **Infrastructure and Connectivity:**

  - **Connectivity:** Singapore is directly connected to 18 Indian cities by 8 airlines, there are now **308 weekly services (616 weekly flights) by Indian and Singaporean airlines.**
  - **Smart Cities**: A consortium of Singapore companies is developing **Amaravati, the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh.** Singapore is also working with Rajasthan in preparing Concept Plans for **townships in Udaipur and Jodhpur;** with Himachal Pradesh for developing an integrated **township of Greater Shimla;** and with Maharashtra for **development of Orange Smart City and master planning of Pune Metropolitan Region.**

- **Cultural Cooperation:**

  - Singapore's large Indian diaspora through a number of cultural societies and Singapore's official support sustains a **high level of cultural activity in Singapore.**
  - They celebrated the 4$^{th}$ **International Day of Yoga (IDY)** through 173 yoga sessions and attended by approx. 8000 people.
  - Even on **Mahatma Gandhi's 150$^{th}$ birth anniversary**, celebrations were launched with a projection of Gandhiji's video on the world's largest HD video screen at Suntec Convention Centre.

- **Indian Community:**

  - Ethnic Indians constitute about **9.1% or around 3.5 lakhs of the resident population of 3.9 million in Singapore.**
  - **ASEAN-India** Pravasi Bharatiya Divas (PBD) was held in Singapore on 6-7 January 2018 as part of commemoration of 25 years of **ASEAN-India Partnership.**

**Source:PIB**