

Exercise SIMBEX

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Why is in news? SIMBEX 23 concludes

Indian Naval Ships **Ranvijay** (guided-missile Destroyer), **Kavaratti** (ASW Corvette), **submarine Sindhukesari** and a long range Maritime Patrol Aircraft P8I participated in the 30th edition of **Singapore India Maritime Bilateral Exercise** (SIMBEX) in Singapore.

It was **first held in 1994**, the three-decade-old annual exercise kicked off with an opening ceremony on 21 September 2023, which was attended by personnel from both the navies.

The ceremony saw unveiling of the SIMBEX 30th Edition Logo.

The **Harbour Phase** witnessed a wide range of professional interactions, Subject Matter Expert Exchanges, conduct of combined aviation and firefighting/ damage control exercises, and the **signing of a Joint Standard Operating Procedure (JSOP) on Submarine Rescue** between India and Singapore.

The Commanding Officers of the Indian Navy contingent also paid homage at the **Kranji War Memorial** in a solemn wreath laying ceremony.

Other activities undertaken during the stay in harbour included sports exchanges, cross-deck visits, and onboard visit of school children and personnel from the Indian High Commission.

The **Sea Phase** of SIMBEX 23 was conducted from 25 to 28 September 2023, the forces of both the countries **engaged in complex maritime security exercises** including advanced anti-submarine warfare, surface and air defence exercises, as well as tactical manoeuvers and weapon firings.

SIMBEX 23 ended on a high note reaffirming the **close bonds of friendship and interoperability** between the two maritime nations.