

India, Indonesia to boost defence industry ties

Dalip Singh
New Delhi

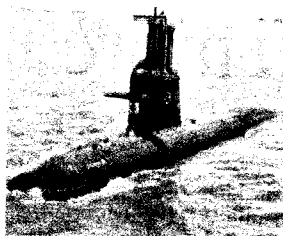
India's experience in submarine development and supply-chain management, including its work on the Scorpene-class submarine programme, has been recognised by Indonesia as highly valuable for Jakarta's future defence plans, the Defence Ministry said on Thursday.

The acknowledgement came as India and Indonesia agreed to deepen defence industrial cooperation and push ahead with initiatives aimed at strengthening regional security.

The Navy's Scorpene-class submarines are built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd (MDL) through a technology transfer arrangement with France's Naval Group.

Six submarines — INS Kalvari, Khanderi, Karanj, Vela, Vagir and Vagsheer — were commissioned between 2017 and 2023.

A follow-on order for three additional Scorpene submarines is in the pipeline



Indonesia has commended India on the Scorpene-class submarine programme

to bolster India's indigenous submarine production capability.

DEFENCE TIES

During wide-ranging talks in New Delhi, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh and visiting Indonesian Defence Minister Sjafrie Sjamsuoddin resolved to work towards establishing a joint defence industry cooperation committee that will facilitate collaboration in technology transfer, joint research and development, certification alignment and supply-chain integration.

Against the backdrop of China's growing assertiveness in the region, both sides reiterated the importance of maintaining a free, open and peaceful Indo-Pacific, guided by international law and respect for sovereignty.

Indonesia reaffirmed that India remains a key partner in promoting peace and cooperation, noting the shared principles underpinning the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative.

CYBER RESILIENCE

According to the Defence Ministry, the two countries committed to enhancing practical cooperation in maritime domain awareness, cyber resilience and joint operational readiness.

They also highlighted steady progress in joint military exercises across land, sea and air, and agreed to expand officer exchanges, joint training programmes and visits to defence education institutions to bolster interoperability.

Both nations reaffirmed

their commitment to maritime security in the Indian Ocean, and discussed avenues for deeper coordination.

PALESTINE ISSUE

India and Indonesia also expressed support for a just and lasting peace in Palestine, identifying opportunities to cooperate in humanitarian assistance, post-conflict reconstruction and multilateral peace initiatives. Indonesia conveyed its readiness to contribute peacekeeping personnel to Gaza under a UN mandate.

As a gesture of goodwill, India announced the gifting of horses and a ceremonial carriage from the Indian Army's Remount Veterinary Corps to Indonesia.

Both ministers expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the dialogue, emphasising the need to sustain high-level engagement and strengthen structured cooperation across multiple defence and security domains, to ensure peace, stability and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.