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1. Landmark defense and strategic partnership agreements signed between India and Indonesia during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Jakarta.

i. The Historic Missile Deal

- Indonesia has officially contracted to purchase India's BrahMos cruise missiles and Astra air-to-air missiles.
- The deal is valued at ₹5,692 crore (approximately \$600 million)
- This is the first time a major missile export agreement has been officially announced in the presence of the Prime Minister.
- Indonesia joins Vietnam and the Philippines, which have previously entered into similar missile procurement agreements with India.
- These missile systems played a critical role in India's "Operation Sindoor" following the Balakot (Palgam) attacks.

ii. Total Bilateral Agreements

- A total of 14 major agreements were signed between the two nations.
- The pacts span across diverse fields including education, healthcare, technology, food security, medicine production, maritime security, critical minerals, and steel supply.
- The leaders also decided to integrate India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) with Indonesia's payment systems to facilitate easier trade and travel.

iii. Strategic Infrastructure and Education

- India and Indonesia will jointly develop the Sabang Port in Indonesia.
- This port is strategically located just 100 miles from India's Great Nicobar project.
- Following the education agreement, a campus of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Bangalore will be established in the Singasari Special Economic Zone in East Java, Indonesia.
- This follows IIM Ahmedabad's initiative of setting up an international campus in Dubai last year.

iv. Healthcare and Pharmaceutical Sector

- An MoU was signed between India's Central Drugs Standard Control Organisation and Indonesia's drug and food control agency.
- The agreement focuses on the exchange of information regarding global medical regulatory standards and expanding market access for high-quality Indian medicines in Indonesia.
- Training: India will provide skill development training for Indonesian doctors and medical staff.

v. Diplomatic Honors and Geopolitical Vision

- President Prabowo Subianto conferred Indonesia's highest civilian award, the "Bintang Adipurna" (Grand Star of the Order of the Republic of Indonesia), upon PM Modi.
- Both leaders emphasized the importance of a free and open Indo-Pacific governed by international law and freedom of navigation.
- PM Modi reiterated India's support for a two-state solution to the Palestine issue and called for diplomacy to resolve global conflicts.
- The Prime Minister referenced the 1955 Bandung Conference and the foundational roles of Jawaharlal Nehru and Sukarno in establishing the Non-Aligned Movement.

2. The Government of Tamil Nadu signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Hitachi Group in the presence of Chief Minister Joseph Vijay to attract an investment of ₹1,000 crore, which is expected to create 1,000 high-end technology jobs.

i. According to a Government release, the MoU covers:

- The expansion of the Global Technology and Innovation Centre of the Hitachi Group at Porur, Chennai.
 - The expansion of the manufacturing facility of Hitachi Energy India at Chengalpattu.
- Under the agreement, ₹1,000 crore will be invested over the next 3 to 5 years, creating an additional 1,000 high-skilled technology jobs.

ii. The Hitachi Group is one of the world's Fortune Global 500 companies. Hitachi Energy India Ltd. and Hitachi Energy Technology Services Pvt. Ltd. are subsidiaries of the group.

3. The Tamil Nadu Government has announced that the home-based property

registration service will become mandatory from August 17 and has issued a Government Order detailing the new procedures in the Registration Department.

- i. As part of modernising the Registration Department, the Government has introduced the STAR 3.0 application. According to the new guidelines, first-sale residential plots and first-sale apartment registrations must be registered through the home-based registration system from August 17 onwards.
4. At least 20 people have died and more than 300 people have been injured due to widespread damage caused by heavy rains across several provinces of China.
- i. Continuous rainfall triggered by Typhoon Mesak has caused floodwaters in more than 62 major rivers to rise above danger levels. As a result, over 54,000 people have been evacuated to safer locations.
5. Girish Bharadwaj (78), popularly known as the “Bridge Man of India,” passed away early in the morning at a private hospital following illness.
- i. A mechanical engineer from Sullia, Karnataka, Girish Bharadwaj spent over 30 years connecting remote villages through low-cost suspension footbridges. His innovative bridges enabled rural communities to access schools, hospitals, and markets more easily.
 - ii. In 1989, he built his first suspension footbridge across the Payaswini River in Kodagu district, Karnataka. He later constructed similar bridges across Karnataka, Kerala, and several other states, earning the title “Sethubandhu” (Bridge Builder).
 - iii. In recognition of his outstanding contribution to rural connectivity and public service, he was awarded the Padma Shri by the Government of India in 2017.
6. On the birth anniversary (July 7) of social reformer and champion of marginalised communities Rettamalai Srinivasan, Vice President C. P. Radhakrishnan paid floral tributes to his portrait at the Vice President’s House in New Delhi.
7. Indonesia is set to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with India for cooperation in election management and the procurement of Electronic Voting

Machines (EVMs).

- i. Indonesia, the world's third-largest democracy with a population of around 290 million, is seeking India's expertise in election technology, election management, institutional support, and capacity building as part of efforts to modernise its electoral system.
- ii. Indian Government officials stated that whenever democratic nations seek reliable election expertise, India remains their preferred choice.
- iii. Following the examples of Bhutan, Nepal, and Namibia, Indonesia has also decided to adopt India's election technology and practices, reflecting India's growing influence in global electoral systems.
- iv. Bhutan was the first country to receive customized Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and technical support from India.
- v. Nepal received customised EVMs and institutional support from India for pilot implementation of electronic voting.
- vi. Namibia has been successfully using Indian-made Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs) and Voter Verifiable Paper Audit Trail (VVPAT) machines in its elections.
- vii. Indonesia will now procure customised EVMs from India. The agreement will also enhance cooperation between the two countries in:
 - Election technology,
 - Human resource development,
 - Capacity building, and
 - Exchange of best electoral practices.

viii. Addressing the Indonesian Parliament, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said:

"The 1955 Bandung Conference conveyed to the world that independent nations have the right to make their own decisions. This message was strongly articulated by then Indian Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Indonesian President Sukarno."

Historical Background: Bandung Conference (1955)

The historic Bandung Conference, held in 1955, brought together 29 newly independent Asian and African countries. The conference aimed to:

- Promote cooperation among Asian and African nations,
- Oppose colonialism and imperialism, and
- Lay the foundation for the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

Jawaharlal Nehru was one of the principal organisers of this landmark conference.