



India, Oman MoU

Why in News

Recently, [India and Oman](#) renewed the Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) on **military cooperation** as well as on **maritime security**.



Key Points

▪ India-Oman Relationship:

- The Sultanate of Oman is a **strategic partner of India** and an important speaker at the [Gulf Cooperation Council](#) (GCC), [Arab League](#) and [Indian Ocean Rim Association](#) (IORA) fora.
 - **India is a member of IORA but not a member of GCC and Arab League.**
- India and Oman are **linked by geography, history and culture** and enjoy **warm and cordial relations**, which are attributed to **historical maritime trade linkages**, intimacy of the Royal family with India and the **seminal role played by Indian expatriate community** in building Oman, which is acknowledged by the Omani Government.
- Institutional mechanisms like Joint Commission Meeting (JCM) and Joint Business Council (JBC) **oversee economic cooperation** between the two.
- Key **bilateral agreements/MoUs cover cooperation** in Defence; peaceful uses of Outer Space; Extradition; Legal and judicial cooperation in civil and commercial matters; Agriculture; Civil Aviation; Avoidance of Double Taxation; Maritime issues; etc.

▪ Defence Cooperation:

- In West-Asia, **Oman is one of India's oldest defence partners** and an **ally in anti-piracy campaigns**.

- India has **supplied rifles to Oman**. Also, India is **considering setting up a defence production unit in Oman**.
- India and Oman **conduct regular biennial bilateral exercises** between all three services.
 - Army exercise: **Al Najah**
 - Air Force exercise: **Eastern Bridge**
 - Naval Exercise: **Naseem Al Bahr**

▪ **Maritime Cooperation:**

- Oman is at the gateway of **Strait of Hormuz** through which India imports one-fifth of its oil imports.
- The **berth rights given by Oman to Indian vessels** is important for the Indian Navy to carry out anti-piracy operations in the Gulf of Aden.
- **India signed a pact with the country in 2018 to access the Duqm port of Oman.**
- India is working closely with Oman **to enhance strategic depth in the region and add heft to its Indo-Pacific vision** in the Western and Southern Part of Indian Ocean.
- India **needs its support to counter the growing Chinese foothold in the region.**
 - India is concerned with China's acquisition of strategic assets in the region including setting its base at Port of Doraleh in Djibouti.

Source:PIB

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