

## **INDIA, INDONESIA AGREE TO BOOST MARITIME TIES**

**New Delhi:** Months after India and Indonesia elevated their ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, defence minister Nirmala Sitharaman and her Indonesian counterpart Gen. Ryamizard Rycudu (Retd) on Tuesday held wide-ranging talks, exploring ways to deepen defence and security relations, with a focus on cooperation in maritime domain. Ms Sitharaman and Ge, Rycudu, in their talks in Jakarta, also agreed to set up working groups to boost bilateral defence engagements in specific areas, officials said here without elaborating. Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Indonesia in May during which both sides signed a pact on defence cooperation and elevated the ties to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Ms Sitharaman arrived in Jakarta on Monday on a two-day visit. In the talks, the Indian side welcomed Indonesia's support for New Delhi's proposal to be part of the maritime patrol in the Malacca Straits, officials said. — *PTI*