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Title	Jokowi's balancing act
Syllabus	General Studies-II - International Relations - Important events around the World
Issue	Indonesia Presidential elections
LaEx Notes	

Context: Joko Widodo secured another term as President of Indonesia in recently concluded elections

#### Highlights

1) Democracy in Asia at times has been equated with leaders from- dynastic heirs, military strongmen, corporate tycoons and religious hardliners. However, the victory of Widodo in 2014 was a welcome step. Since, Widodo is from middle-class and humble, with a pluralistic outlook and commitment to clean government

2) However, the recent victory of Widodo has given rise to few concerns. Some of them are:

- The role religion played in political discourse, in world's third largest democracy. Both the candidates sought to create artificial image of a pious religious leader.
- No concrete policy has been made on fighting religious extremism

3) Challenges that lie ahead:

- To increase foreign investment amid a climate of economic nationalism
- Issue of restrictive labour laws.
- Indonesia's response to China's growing economic clout in the region
- Protecting minority rights would be the biggest challenge though

Takeaway point: The challenge remains quite daunting for Joko Widodo in his second term. One of the primary challenges would be to protect the rights of minority in Indonesia

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