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India-Indonesia: Role of Trade and Socio-Political Relations in Bridging the Gap between two Countries

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INTRODUCTION

India's widespread engagement with the Southeast Asian region started with the 'Look East Policy' since 1991. However, historical evidence - both oral and written – shows that India has not only been 'Looking East' for the past two millennia, but has also engaged the east during this period, though intermittently. Cultural interactions along with trade ties have formed the bedrock of this connection (MEA India, 2013). The cultural bridge between India and Indonesia that has been in existence since the Neolithic period operates at several levels: art, architecture, popular drama and literature, Indian communities in Indonesia, and even the societal configuration of Indonesia and their struggle for freedom from colonialism (Llewellyn, 2018). This speaks volumes about the historic linkages between the two countries. Today, both countries have the distinction of being termed 'Mosaics of Cultures'. Java and Sumatra have been major trade hubs for long. In fact, from the beginning Indonesia and Southeast Asia were renowned for their monopoly over the world's spice trade. Classic texts repeatedly mentioned them as great trading places.

Political Relations :

Convergence of Nehru-Sukarno Vision of Asia:

As colonialism ended, the new states formed a close alliance. In a 1946 letter Sukarno, Indonesia's first leader, wrote to Jawaharlal Nehru, his Indian counterpart: "The word 'India' must necessarily always be part of our life for it forms the first two syllables of the name we have chosen for our land and our race." But it was not long before the cold war created a rift: India drew closer to the Soviet Union, Indonesia to the US[1].

In modern times, it was the friendship between India's first PM Jawaharlal Nehru and first Indonesian President Sukarno that sowed the seeds for the close friendship between the two countries that we see today. Nehru championed the Indonesian cause as the infant nation struggled to end Dutch imperialism. In March-April 1947, Nehru hosted the first Asian Relations Conference in New Delhi to discuss the Indonesian problem. It brought together leaders of independence movements from across Asia, and was the first effort to forge an Asian unity. Biju Patnaik, later to become the chief minister of Orissa, responded to Nehru's call to pilot his aircraft to Indonesia to rescue vice president Mohammad Hatta, and PM Sutan Sjahrir from the Dutch to fly them to New Delhi to attend the conference. Years later, Sukarno made Patnaik an honorary Bumiputra[2].

Nehru followed the 1947 event by hosting the Indonesia Conference in January 1949 to discuss the Dutch aggression on the nascent republic. These two conferences were precursors to the Bandung Conference

1. Chilkoti Avantika (2016), "Indonesia India and Indonesia: rivals divided by a shared history" Financial Times, June 6 2016. https://www.ft.com/content/e8750f9c-1de6-11e6-a7bc-ee846770ec15

2. Mohan A. (2013), "India and Indonesia: Twins of a Kind", Focus Article, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, October 8 2013. https://mea.gov.in/in-focus-article.htm?22301/India+and+Indonesia+Twins+of+a+Kind

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of 1955 that Indonesia hosted. It was the first Afro-Asian event where both Nehru and Sukarno invoked the "spirit of Asia" and laid the foundation for the non-aligned movement. In more contemporary times, the unveiling of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991 and with India becoming a partner of the ASEAN helped New Delhi and Jakarta revive ties which were disrupted when Indonesia came under military rule between 1965 to 1998. Indonesia is the most populous, largest and the most influential of the 10-ASEAN member states. Last few years have been marked by strengthening of defence and security cooperation[3].

Owing to struggle against colonial powers, democratic traditions, pluralist culture, and progressive leadership which both countries shared, India and Indonesia developed friendly relations. President Sukarno of Indonesia was the Guest of Honour during the first Republic Day of India in 1950. Independent India and Indonesia became chief votaries of independence of Asian and African countries, the spirit which led to historic Bandung Conference of 1955 and later formation of Non-Aligned Movement in 1961. Since the adoption of India's 'Look East Policy' in 1991, there has been a rapid development of bilateral relations in political, security, defence, commercial and cultural fields. The current Government expressed its intent to further deepen the engagement with East Asia and by renaming the policy as "Act East"[4].

Visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in May 2018:

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Jakarta on 29-30 May 2018 at the invitation of the President of Indonesia Mr. Joko Widodo. During this visit, both Leaders agreed to strengthen cooperation in all areas by establishing a New Comprehensive Strategic Partnership to take Indonesia and India's bilateral relationship into a new era. During the visit, 15 agreements/MoUs were signed between the two countries including nine Government to Government level (G2G) MoUs in the areas of defence cooperation, cooperation in the exploration and uses of outer space for peaceful purposes, Scientific and Technological Cooperation, Technical Cooperation in Railways sector, Health Cooperation, on Pharmaceutical, Biological and Cosmetics Regulatory Functions, on Policy dialogue between Governments and Interaction between Think Tanks[5]. Both sides also agreed on a Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific[6].

Leaders of the both countries also shared their view on the imperative need to eradicate radicalism and reiterated the importance of promoting peaceful pluralism that would lead to true civilisation harmony, and moderation through a holistic approach. They reiterated their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations including cross-border terrorism and terror-related incidents in Indonesia and India and affirmed that perpetrators of these heinous acts must be brought to justice. Both leaders also affirmed that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, creed, nationality and ethnicity[7].

The Prime Minister and the President also jointly inaugurated the Kite Exhibition which was based on the theme of Ramayana and Mahabharata. Both Leaders acknowledged the Recommendations and Outcome Document submitted by the members of India Indonesia CEOs' Forum. The Leaders further instructed the regular convening of the forum and expansion of business sectors as it could function as constructive measure to tap more opportunities and potentials in developing bilateral cooperation in trade and investment.

3. Ibid.

4. "India's Look East - Act East Policy: A Bridge to the Asian Neighbourhood", International Relations Conference 2014, Symbiosis Institute of International Studies, Pune.

5. "List of MoUs/Announcements made during the visit of Prime Minister to Indonesia", Media Centre, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, 30 May 2018. https://www.mea.gov.in/bilateral-documents.htm?dtl/29931/List+of+MoUsAnnouncements+made+during+the+visit+of+Prime+Minister+to+Indonesia+2931+May+2018

6. "India, Indonesia sign 15 strategic pacts, including one on defence ties", Business Standard, 30 may 2018. Jakarta. https://www.business-standard.com/article/international/india-indonesia-sign-15-strategic-pacts-including-one-on-defence-ties-118053001267_1.html

7. "India, Indonesia strongly condemn cross-border terrorism", Times of India, 30 May 2018. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/pm-narendra-modi-strongly-condemns-recent-terror-strikes-on-churches-in-indonesia/articleshowprint/64382594.cms

Other Important Ministerial Visits:

Raksha Mantri Mrs. Nirmala Sitharaman visited Indonesia from 21-24 October 2018 for bilateral talks on defence. In line with the elevation of relationship between the two countries to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, the two sides discussed areas of enhancing cooperation, including strengthening maritime and coastal security, through improved information sharing and conduct of specialised training courses. She held discussions with her Indonesian counterpart Gen (Retd.) Ryamizard Rycudu, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Gen (Retd.) Luhut Panjaitan and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs Gen (Retd) Wiranto during her stay[8]. She also went to Yogyakarta and met with the Governor of Yogyakarta Sri Sultan Hamengkubuwana X.

As a follow up to the visit of Prime Minister of India to Indonesia in May 2018, India and Indonesia held the first Interfaith Dialogue in Yogyakarta from 3-5 October 2018. Minister of State of External Affairs Mr. M.J. Akbar led a seven member delegation and held discussion with Indonesian delegation which was led by Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs of Indonesia Mr. A.M. Fachir. Previously, the Minister of State also visited Indonesia from 28-31 July 2018 to discuss the next steps on convening the 1st India Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue (IIID) in October 2018[9].

Not only these, but several other ministerial level visits from India and Indonesia took place between 204-18. These visits have further paved the way for increased cooperation between the two developing economic powers of Indian Ocean region.

Recent ministerial visits from Indonesia:

Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs Mr. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan visited India on 17-18 May 2018 and had meetings with External Affairs Minister, Commerce and Industry Minister, Minister of State of Civil Aviation and also interacted with members of CII. Minister of Tourism of Indonesia Mr. Arief Yahya visited India in the inaugural flight between Mumbai and Bali on 23 April along with the President Director of Garuda Indonesia and officials from Angkasa Pura I.

Director General for Legal Affairs and International Treaties Dr Ir. Damos Dumoli Agusman, Indonesia (DGLA) visited India on 07-08 March 2018. During the visit, DGLA initiated the talk of India-Indonesia maritime delimitation. Defence Minister of Indonesia General (Retd) Ryamizard Ryacudu, visited New Delhi from 17-19 January 2018 to participate in India-Indonesia Biennial Defence Ministers' Dialogue on 19 January 2018. Minister of Trade of Indonesia Mr. Enggartisto Lukita visited New Delhi on 25 September 2017 to participate in 2nd Bilateral Trade Minister's Forum. He held talks with Mr. Suresh Prabhu, Commerce and Industry Minister and discussed ways and means of enhancing trade and investment.

Mr. Wiranto, Coordinating Minister for Political, Unclassified Legal and Security Affairs visited India on 14-15 March 2017 to participate in the Counter Terrorism Conference (CTC) 2017 held in New Delhi[10]. Minister of Transportation Mr. Jonan Ignasius led a delegation to India from 12-16 February 2016 at the invitation of Ms. Nirmala Seetharaman, Minister for Commerce and Industry for exploring opportunities for economic cooperation between the two countries. He led the delegation to 'Make in India' event in Mumbai and met CIM, Minister of Civil Aviation and MoS (Ministry of Railways)[11].

India-Indonesia Bilateral Institution al Mechanisms:

Joint Commission Meeting:

A Joint Commission Mechanism (JCM) was set up

8. "Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman hold wide-ranging talks with her Indonesian counterpart Ryamizard Rycudu", Times Now News, 23 October 2018. https://www.timesnownews.com/india/article/defence-minister-nirmala-sitharaman-hold-wide-ranging-talks-with-her-indonesian-counterpart-ryamizard-rycudu/303572

9. "First India-Indonesia Interfaith Dialogue to be held in October", The Bussiness standard, 31 July, 2018. https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/first-india-indonesia-interfaith-dialogue-to-be-held-in-oct-118073101537_1.html

10. "In India, Wiranto calls for strong global effort against terrorism", Jakarta Post, 16 March 2017. Jakarta. https://www.thejakartapost.com/news/2017/03/16/in-india-wiranto-calls-for-strong-global-effort-against-terrorism.html

11. "Make In India Week concludes on a high note showcasing India's manufacturing prowess, Manufacturing, Design and Innovation has been brought to the centre stage", PIB releases, Government of India. 18 February 2016.

at the level of the Foreign Ministers following the signing of a MoU to this effect in January 2001. Led by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, External Affairs Minister and Ms. Retno Marsudi, Indonesian Foreign Minister, the 5th JCM was held on 5 January 2018 in Jakarta[12].

Foreign Office Consultations:

As a follow up to the decision taken at the 4th JCM, the first round of Foreign Office Consultations (FOCs) was held in Bali, Indonesia on 17 June 2013. The 4th Indonesia-India Foreign Office Consultation meeting took place in New Delhi, on 15 December 2017.

India Indonesia Security Dialogue:

During the State visit of Indonesian President Joko Widodo to India on 12-13 December 2016, the two leaders agreed to establish Security Dialogue in order to develop a comprehensive action plan on security cooperation. Accordingly, Gen. (Retd) H. Wiranto, Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs, of Indonesia visited India and met Shri Ajit Doval, National Security Advisor on 9 January 2018 for the first meeting of India-Indonesia Security Dialogue[13].

Defence Ministers' Dialogue:

Shri AK Antony, Defence Minister visited Indonesia on 15-17 October 2012 for the bilateral Defence Ministers' Dialogue. Defence Minister Nirmala Sitharaman visited Indonesia on 21-24 October 2018 and held meetings with her counterpart as well as Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal and Security Affairs[14].

Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism and Narcotics:

Pursuant to the MoU for cooperation in Counter Terrorism signed in 2004, the first meeting of India-Indonesia JWG on Counter-Terrorism was held in New Delhi in February 2005. 5th meeting of Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism took place in New Delhi on 10-11 September 2018.[15] 3rd DG level Joint Working Group meeting between Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) of India and Indonesian National Anti-Narcotics Agency (BNN) was held on 28 – 29 June 2018 in New Delhi[16].

Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum (BTMF):

The 1st meeting of the BTMF took place in Jakarta in October 2011. The 2nd meeting of the BTMF was held in New Delhi on 25 September 2017. Trade Minister H.E. Mr. Enggartiasto Lukita led a 12-member delegation to the meeting while Indian delegation was led by Commerce and Industry Minister of India, Shri Suresh Prabhu[17].

Energy Forum:

The Energy Forum co-chaired by the Minister of Coal from India and Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources from Indonesia was launched in January 2011 to help promote mutually beneficial G2G and B2B cooperation. The 1st Energy Forum was held in Jakarta on 20 April 2017. MOS (I/C) for Coal, Power, New and Renewable Energy and Mines Shri Piyush Goyal and his Indonesian counterpart H.E. Mr. Ignasius Jonan, Minister

12. "EAM Sushma Swaraj co-chairs fifth meeting of India-Indonesia joint Commission", DD news, 5 Jnaury 2018. http://ddnews.gov.in/national/eam-sushma-swaraj-co-chairs-fifth-meeting-india-indonesia-joint-commission

13. "India, Indonesia hold 1st security dialogue, vow to combat terror", The Times of India, 9 January 2018, https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/india/india-indonesia-hold-1st-security-dialogue-vow-to-combat-terror/articleshow/62431582.cms

14. "Indian Defence Minister visits Indonesia", Gateway Hopuse, 22 Octepber 2018. https://www.gatewayhouse.in/events/indian-defence-minister-visits-indonesia/

15. "The Fifth Meeting of Indonesia-India Joint Working Group on Counter Terrorism", Embassy of Republic of Indonesia, New Delhi, 10 September 2018. https://kemlu.go.id/newdelhi/en/news/504/the-fifth-meeting-of-indonesia-india-joint-working-group-on-counter-terrorism

16. Ghosh S. (2018), "India, Indonesia join hands to eradicate drug use and abuse", DNA India, 30 June 2018.https://www.dnaindia.com/delhi/report-india-indonesia-join-hands-to-eradicate-drug-use-and-abuse-2631260

17. "2nd India-Indonesia Biennial Trade Ministers' Forum Meeting agrees to early meeting of Working Groups on Trade & Investment and Trade Facilitation & Remedies", Press Information Bureau, Government of India. 25 September 2017.

of Energy and Mineral Resources jointly led the Energy Forum[18].

JWG on Oil and Gas:

The 1st meeting of the JWG on Oil and Gas was held in June 2012 at Bali. The 2nd JWG was held on the sidelines of Energy Forum on 20 April 2017 in Jakarta. The MOU on cooperation in Oil and Gas, which expired in January 2016, was signed during the JWG meeting on 20 April 2017[19].

JWG on New and Renewable Energy:

An MOU on new and renewable energy cooperation was signed in November 2015. The 1st JWG under this MOU was held through digital video conference on 20 April 2017 on the sidelines of Energy Forum. JWG on Coal: The JWG on Coal was established in 2010. India hosted the 3rd meeting of JWG in November 2015 in New Delhi. The 4th JWG meeting took place in Jakarta on 20 April 2017 along with Energy Forum.

JWG on Agriculture:

Both sides signed a MoU for Cooperation in Agriculture in 2008. The 4th JWG on Agriculture was held in Jakarta on 17-18 April 2017. Both sides agreed to act on the Matrix of Work Plan.

India Indonesia Infrastructure Forum:

The Embassy hosted the 1st India Indonesia Infrastructure Forum Jakarta jointly with the Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs and Ministry of Transportation on 19 March 2018 in Jakarta. The event was jointly inaugurated by H.E. Mr. Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan, Coordinating Minister for Maritime Affairs and H.E. Mr. Budi Karya Sumadi, Minister of Transportation along with Ambassador. A high-level delegation of nearly 30 plus Indian CEO's from infrastructure sector focusing on Port, Power, Airport, Water Resource Management, Hospital Management Systems and Health Service, Industry and IT solutions for Infrastructure Projects, with leading Indian companies was present.[20] Second India Indonesia Infrastructure Forum was held in Jakarta on 19 March 2019.[21]

Civil Aviation Consultation

In order to enhance direct flight connectivity between India and Indonesia, both countries held Civil Aviation Consultation in New Delhi on 19-20 September 2018.

Trilateral Institutional Mechanisms:

Australia-India-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean:

The 3rd Australia-India-Indonesia Trilateral Dialogue on Indian Ocean (TDIO) was hosted by Indian Council for World Affairs in New Delhi on 21 November 2017. The three sides discussed issues such as 'building norms for Indian Ocean Regional Cooperation' and 'fisheries management in Indian ocean' which were based on the IORA concord[22].

Indonesia-Australia-India (IAI) Senior Officials' Strategic Dialogue:

The 1st Indonesia-Australia-India (IAI) Senior Officials' Strategic Dialogue was held in Bogor, Indonesia on 27 November 2017. 2nd Indonesia-Australia-India (IAI) Senior Officials' Strategic Dialogue took place in

18. "1st 'India Indonesia Energy Forum' held in Jakarta", Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Power, Government of India, 22 April 2017.

19. "India discusses oil & gas policy framework with Indonesia", India Infoline News Service, April 23, 2017. https://www.indiainfoline.com/article/news-top-story/oil-gas-policy-framework-india-discusses-oil-gas-policy-framework-with-indonesia-117042200247_1.html

20. 1st India – Indonesia Infrastructure Forum: Strategic Regional Co-operation, Deputy for Infrastructure, Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs. 19 March 2018. Jakarta. https://indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/pdf/Deputy%20Coordinating%20Ministry%20of%20Maritime%20Affair.pdf

21. 2nd India – Indonesia Infrastructure Forum, Jakarta, March 19th, 2019. https://www.indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/pdf/Presentation_of_Coordinating_Minister.pdf

22. Bergin A. (2017), "Trilateral dialogue opens the way for Indo-Pacific cooperation" ASPI, The Strategist. 27 Novemnber 2017. https://www.aspistrategist.org.au/trilateral-dialogue-opens-the-way-for-indo-pacific-cooperation/

Perth in September 2018 in which Indian delegation was led by Joint Secretary (South) Shri Manish[23].

Parliamentary Exchanges:

There are regular Parliamentary exchanges between two countries in order to enhance bilateral capacities of diplomatic development. These parliamentary exchanges are further facilitating deepening of bilateral relations between the two countries. A 13-member Indian Parliamentary Goodwill Delegation led by Hon'ble Mr. Ravi Prakash Verma, Member of Parliament, visited Indonesia Unclassified from 14-18 April 2016. An Indian Parliamentary delegation led by Lok Sabha Speaker Mrs. Sumitra Mahajan visited Bali to participate in World Parliamentary Forum on Sustainable Development on 5-7 September 2017.[24] A delegation of Indonesia-India Parliamentary Friendship group led by Hon'ble Mr. Satya Widya Yudha visited India on 24-27 September 2017.

Trade and Economic Relations:

Indonesia has emerged as the largest trading partner of India in the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) region. Bilateral trade has increased from US$ 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to US$ 20.4 billion in 2017-18.[25]

Table 1 : India-Indonesia Total Trade, 2014-15 to 2018-19

Year	Total Trade (USD Million)
2014-15	19,047.96
2015-16	15,951.42
2016-17	16,916.11
2017-18	20,402.57
2018-19	21,119.54

Source: Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India[26]

India is the second largest buyer of coal and crude palm oil from Indonesia and imports minerals, rubber, pulp and paper and hydrocarbons reserves. India exports refined petroleum products, commercial vehicles, telecommunication equipment, agriculture commodities, bovine meat, steel products and plastics to Indonesia.

The overall investment scenario in Indonesia is encouraging. It is an attractive destination for Indian investment in the region. There are about 30 Indian investments/Joint Ventures in Indonesia. For the five years between 2014 to 2018, investments from India averaged about USD 100 million and that figure has been bumped up because of USD 286 million committed in 2017. The mega investment in 2017 was by Adani Ports in a new container port in Banten Province in the city of Cilegon that is 100 kilometres from Jakarta in the northwest part of Java Island. In 2016, Indian investment in Indonesia was just USD 55 million[27]. But as most investments come through Singapore and other gateways, the quantum of investment could be much more.

Indian companies have made significant investments in infrastructure, power, textiles, steel, automotive, mining, banking and consumer goods sectors. Prominent Indian groups/companies such as Tata Power, Reliance, Adani, L&T, GMR, GVK, Trimex, Videocon, Punj Lloyd, CG Power, Madhucon, Spice, Indo Rama, Aditya Birla, JK Industries, Jindal Stainless Steel, ESSAR, Ispat, Tata Motors, Mahindra, TVS, Bajaj, Royal Enfield, Minda, Godrej, Wipro, Balmer and Lawrie, SBI and Bank of India have established fully owned subsidiaries/joint ventures in Indonesia[28].

23. "Second Indonesia-Australia-India Senior Officials' Strategic Dialogue", Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Government of Australia. 27 September, 2018. Canberra, Australia. https://dfat.gov.au/news/media/Pages/second-indonesia-australia-india-senior-officials-strategic-dialogue-canberra-australia.aspx
24. "Speaker leading delegation to World Parliamentary Forum meet", The Business Standard, 5 September 2017.https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ians/speaker-leading-delegation-to-world-parliamentary-forum-meet-117090501238_1.html
25. *Trade with Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN),* One Hundred Thirty Seventh Report, Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee On Commerce, Rajya Sabah, Parliament of India 2017.
26. Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry Government of India, https://commerce-app.gov.in/eidb/iecnt.asp
27. "India missing out on investment opportunities in Indonesia", Business standard, 22 April 2019. https://www.business-standard.com/article/news-ani/india-missing-out-on-investment-opportunities-in-indonesia-119042200260_1.html
28. "India-Indonesia Economic and Commercial Relations", Embassy of Republic of India, 31 December 2018 Jakarta, https://www.indianembassyjakarta.gov.in/users/assets/pdf/menu/ECRmenu.pdf

In comparison, Indonesia's investment in India is limited to about US$ 629.10 million (April 2000-June 2018). PT. Sumber Mitra Jaya has undertaken four projects for the National Highways Authority of India. Bukaka Company is supplying aerobridges to the Airports Authority of India. Salim group from Indonesia invested in petroleum refinery, real estate and industrial township project in West Bengal, but later withdrew due to land acquisition issues. Garuda Foods has set up a joint venture with Polyflex Foods in Bangalore. Bank International Indonesia (BII) has opened a Branch in Mumbai with a capital base of US$ 28 million. CP Prima has invested US$ 2 million in Shrimp hatchery production in Andhra Pradesh and has plans to invest in Feedmill plants as well[29].

Defence and Security Cooperation :

India and Indonesia have robust cooperation in the area of defence and security. Against the backdrop of the rapidly changing security agenda facing the two nations, they have also now agreed to focus on their defense and security ties in order to jointly combat terrorism and organized crime. Their joint statement condemned terrorism in all forms, underscoring "zero tolerance" for acts of terrorism. It asked all nations to work towards eliminating terrorist safe havens and infrastructure, disrupting terrorist networks and their financing channels and stopping cross-border terrorism. In a message to China, which has been blocking India's move to get Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar designated a global terrorist, the two nations called upon all countries to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1267 (banning militant groups and their leaders) and other resolutions designating terrorist entities. The two nations also underline the need to combat and eliminate "illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing" and recognized transnational organized fisheries crime as one of the emerging crimes which needs to be tackled on an urgent basis[30].

In May 2018, during the visit of the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendara Modi, a new defence Cooperation Agreement was signed to reflect the elevation of relationship between the two countries to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Unclassified Activities relating to cooperation in the area of Defence and Security are regularly monitored and new areas discussed during the Biennial Defence Ministers Dialogue, the annual Joint Defence Cooperation Meetings and the service level Staff Talks. Most recently, the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India, Smt Nirmala Sitharaman, visited Indonesia from 21-24 Oct 2018 and in addition to the meeting with her counterpart, Gen (Retd) Ryamizard Raycudu, Defence Minister of Republic of Indonesia[31], had meeting with Gen (Retd) Luhut Panjaitan, Coordianting Minister for Maritime, Gen (Retd) Wiranto, and Coordinating Minister for Political, Legal, and Security Affairs[32].

Presently the cooperation between the two countries is deep and robust covering a wide range of areas. There are regular engagements at the operational level between the three services, and discussions on matters of mutual interest relating to regional security and information sharing. Engagements in capacity building through training and cooperation in the area of defence industry are also pursued based on mutual interest. Following the aftermath of the earthquake and tsunami in Palu and Donggala of Western Sulawesi province of Indonesia on 28th September 2018, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had telephonic conversation with President Joko Widodo on 1st October 2018. Subsequently Operation Samudra Maitri, the operation for humanitarian assistance for the victims of earthquake and tsunami was launched on 3rd

29. India-Indonesia Bilateral relations, Foreign Relations, Embassy of India. Jakarta. https://mea.gov.in/Portal/ForeignRelation/Indonesia_december_28.pdf

30. Pant V. H. (2018), "India and Indonesia Come Together in the Indo-Pacific: What will it take for India's relationship with Indonesia to progress to the next level?", The Diplomat, 30 May 2018. https://thediplomat.com/2018/05/india-and-indonesia-come-together-in-the-indo-pacific/

31. "Bilateral Talks on Defence between India and Indonesia", Press Information Bureau, Ministry of Defence,Government of India, 23 October 2018. http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=184323

32. "Sitharaman holds wide-ranging talks with her Indonesian counterpart", The Economic Times, 24 October 2018. https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/defence/sitharaman-holds-wide-ranging-talks-with-her-indonesian-counterpart/articleshow/66348541.cms?from=mdr

October after Indonesia's acceptance for international aid. India sent two Indian Air Force (IAF) aircrafts carrying onboard medical personnel and relief material to the affected area. Three Indian ships also arrived at Jakarta with more medical supplies for the affected people.

Indo-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise *Garuda Shakti* is conducted as part of military diplomacy between Indian and Indonesian Army alternatively in India and Indonesia respectively. The exercise is conducted on a reciprocal basis and its first edition was conducted in the year 2012 in India. The second edition was conducted in Indonesia in 2013 and third in India in 2014. The exercise is aimed at building and promoting positive relations between the two Armies of India and Indonesia[33].

Maritime cooperation :

During the official visit of the Prime Minister of India to the Republic of Indonesia on 29-30 May 2018, leaders of the both countries discussed the shared vision of the two countries on Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. Recalling the Joint Statement by the two countries on Maritime Cooperation on 12 December 2016 during the State visit of President Jokowi to India both countries affirmed that being the maritime neighbours and sea faring nations, their relations are rooted in civilizational contacts developed through the seas and they share similar perceptions of the evolving maritime environment in the region and world at large. With a coastline of 7,500 kms, with more than 1,380 islands and more than two million sq. km of Exclusive Economic Zone, India occupies a central position in the Indo-Pacific, while Indonesia as the largest archipelagic State in the world, with a coastline of 108,000 kms, with 17,504 islands and features and a total of maritime areas of 6,400,000 sq. km including Exclusive Economic Zone, is a fulcrum that connects the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean. The two oceans represent a combined maritime region which is important for global maritime trade and commerce[34].

Both countries have also underscored the importance to address the emerging maritime security issues facing the Indo-Pacific region including the smuggling of people, arms, drugs and money; illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing; and the movement of terrorists. India and Indonesia have also explored the convergences and complementarities in the region between India's Act East Policy and Security and Growth for all in the Region (SAGAR), and Indonesian Ocean Policy and Indonesia's Global Maritime Fulcrum Vision. Therefore, they reaffirmed the importance of the ASEAN centrality and unity and have also recognized of the importance of the Blue Economy as a driver of inclusive and sustainable economic growth and development in the region[35].

In pursuance to the above, the Leaders agreed to a Shared Vision for Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region to harness the opportunities and to meet the challenges together as Comprehensive Strategic Partner and agreed to the following:

– Enhancing Trade and Investment Cooperation

– Promoting sustainable development of marine resources

– Expanding cooperation in disaster risk management

– Fostering tourism and cultural exchanges

– Promoting Maritime Safety and Security

– Strengthening academic, science and technology cooperation[36].

Conclusion:

The cultural and linguistic similarities between the two countries have a greater impact on the political and economic relations in the contemporary times. India-Indonesia is in a position where they have abundance of opportunities to share their security and strategic concerns all together. In this regards their old historical and cultural ties becomes crucial bringing both nations together.

This study would bring out the significance of cultural

33. "Indo-Indonesia Joint Training Exercise Garuda shakti IV", Press Information Bureau, Government of India. 8 March 2016. http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=137499

34. "Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific", Press Information Bureau Government of India. 30 May 2018. http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=179630

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diplomacy between India and Indonesia and how it will shape the bilateral relations since post-colonial period. This study would also highlight the convergence of socio-political, economic and security interests of these countries and India's increasing influence in Indonesia through emanating old ties and linkages.

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