

Strategic Partnership in Action: Evaluating Recent India–Indonesia Agreements and their Indo-Pacific Implications

Dr. Vishnu Prakash Mangu

Associate Professor of Public Administration, Govt. College (A), Ananthapuramu, Andhra Pradesh, India.

Abstract-- India and Indonesia have strengthened their partnership through a series of agreements signed during 2025 and 2026. These agreements cover defence, maritime security, trade, critical minerals, digital technology, agriculture, healthcare, space cooperation, and disaster management. They reflect a wider effort by both countries to expand cooperation beyond traditional diplomatic and economic relations. This study examines the recent agreements and analyses their effect on the strategic partnership between India and Indonesia and on the wider Indo-Pacific region. The study uses a qualitative research method based on secondary data collected from government documents, joint statements, policy reports, academic studies, and reliable international sources. The paper examines the main agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 and studies their influence on defence cooperation, maritime coordination, economic relations, technology partnerships, and regional cooperation. It also explores the connection between these agreements and India's Act East Policy, Indonesia's Indo-Pacific approach, and ASEAN-centred regional cooperation. The study finds that the recent agreements have increased political trust, expanded defence collaboration, improved maritime coordination, and created new opportunities in trade, technology, and supply-chain cooperation. The agreements also support a more stable and cooperative Indo-Pacific environment by encouraging practical collaboration and institutional engagement. At the same time, the study identifies challenges such as implementation delays, financial constraints, regional strategic competition, and the need for stronger institutional coordination. The paper argues that the recent agreements have moved the India–Indonesia relationship from limited sectoral cooperation to a broader strategic partnership. It contributes to the growing discussion on Indo-Pacific partnerships and offers policy suggestions for strengthening future cooperation between the two countries and regional institutions.

Keywords-- India–Indonesia relations; Indo-Pacific; strategic partnership; maritime security; defence cooperation; ASEAN; Act East Policy; regional cooperation.

I. INTRODUCTION

India and Indonesia are two important countries in the Indo-Pacific region. They share a long history of cultural contact, trade, and political cooperation. Their geographical location gives them a strong role in regional security and economic activity.

India lies at the centre of the Indian Ocean, while Indonesia connects the Indian and Pacific Oceans through important sea routes. These routes carry a large share of global trade and energy supplies. Because of this location, both countries have become important partners in maintaining maritime security and regional stability.

The relationship between India and Indonesia has changed significantly during the last decade. Earlier cooperation focused mainly on trade, culture, education, and diplomatic exchanges. In recent years, the relationship has expanded into defence, maritime security, digital technology, critical minerals, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. Regular high-level visits and strategic dialogue have increased the pace of cooperation. Both countries have also worked together through ASEAN, the East Asia Summit, the Indian Ocean Rim Association, and other regional forums. This wider engagement has given a new direction to their bilateral relationship.

A major turning point came during 2025 and 2026 when both countries signed several important agreements. These agreements covered defence cooperation, maritime safety, coast guard coordination, telecommunications, critical minerals, agriculture, healthcare, space cooperation, and disaster management. They reflected a stronger political commitment from both governments. They also showed that India and Indonesia were willing to cooperate in areas that are directly connected with national security, economic resilience, and technological development. The agreements moved the relationship beyond traditional diplomacy and created a more comprehensive strategic partnership.

These developments are important because the Indo-Pacific has become one of the most significant regions in world politics. The region includes some of the world's busiest sea routes, fast-growing economies, and major centres of military activity. Competition among large powers has increased concerns about maritime security, supply chains, technology, and regional influence. In this changing environment, middle powers such as India and Indonesia have become more active in regional affairs. Both countries support a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. They also support ASEAN centrality and peaceful cooperation among regional states. Their partnership has therefore gained importance beyond bilateral relations.

The recent agreements also support India's Act East Policy and Indonesia's Indo-Pacific outlook. India sees Indonesia as a key partner in Southeast Asia and the eastern Indian Ocean. Indonesia views India as an important strategic and economic partner that can help diversify defence, technology, and investment cooperation. Their growing partnership creates opportunities for closer coordination in maritime security, regional connectivity, critical mineral supply chains, and technological cooperation. It also helps both countries respond to common challenges such as climate change, disaster management, and economic disruptions.

Although many scholars have studied India-Indonesia relations, recent agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 have not yet received sufficient academic attention. Most earlier studies focus on defence cooperation, maritime relations, or ASEAN separately. There is limited research that examines the recent agreements together and analyses their combined impact on strategic partnership and Indo-Pacific security. This study addresses that gap by examining the major agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 and evaluating their effect on defence cooperation, maritime security, economic relations, technology partnerships, and regional cooperation. It also explores the opportunities and challenges that may shape the future of India-Indonesia relations in the Indo-Pacific.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH GAP

The relationship between India and Indonesia has received increasing attention in studies on the Indo-Pacific, maritime security, and Asian regional cooperation. Most recent studies agree that both countries have become important middle powers in the region. Their cooperation has expanded beyond trade and cultural exchanges. It now includes defence, maritime security, technology, energy, and regional governance. Scholars also note that the relationship has become more active since the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership was announced in 2018.

Amitav Acharya argues that the Indo-Pacific is increasingly shaped by cooperation among regional powers rather than by a single dominant power. Countries such as India and Indonesia seek strategic autonomy while supporting a rules-based regional order. This perspective helps explain why both countries have increased cooperation in defence, maritime security, and regional institutions. Their partnership reflects a wider effort to create a balanced and inclusive regional environment.

David Brewster examines India's maritime strategy in the Indian Ocean and the eastern Indian Ocean.

He explains that Indonesia has become an important partner because of its location near major sea lanes and maritime chokepoints. Cooperation with Indonesia helps India improve maritime awareness and strengthen security coordination in the Indo-Pacific. His work highlights the importance of ports, naval cooperation, and maritime agreements between the two countries.

Rory Medcalf studies the changing security environment of the Indo-Pacific and argues that the region has become a major centre of global strategic competition. Partnerships among maritime powers are becoming more important for regional stability. India and Indonesia share common interests in freedom of navigation, open sea lanes, and peaceful management of disputes. However, Medcalf focuses mainly on the broader Indo-Pacific framework and gives limited attention to the recent bilateral agreements signed between the two countries.

Studies on India's Act East Policy also identify Indonesia as a key partner in Southeast Asia. Scholars such as Harsh V. Pant argue that India's engagement with ASEAN has moved from economic cooperation to strategic and security cooperation. Indonesia is often presented as one of India's most important ASEAN partners because of its political influence and maritime position. These studies explain the policy context of India-Indonesia relations, but they do not provide a detailed assessment of the agreements signed during 2025 and 2026.

Indonesian scholars have examined Indonesia's Indo-Pacific outlook and its effort to maintain strategic balance among major powers. They argue that Indonesia supports ASEAN centrality and prefers inclusive regional cooperation. This perspective helps explain Indonesia's interest in expanding partnerships with countries such as India, Japan, and Australia. The literature shows that Indonesia values cooperation that strengthens maritime security, economic development, and regional stability without creating military blocs.

Research on defence cooperation between India and Indonesia has increased in recent years. Scholars have discussed naval exercises, defence dialogue, military training, and cooperation in the defence industry. Recent policy reports from the Observer Research Foundation, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies suggest that missile cooperation and defence technology discussions have opened a new phase in bilateral relations. These reports indicate that defence cooperation has become an important pillar of the partnership, although many of them remain policy-oriented rather than detailed academic studies.



International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435 (Online) Volume 15, Issue 09, September 2026)

Maritime security has been one of the most discussed areas in the literature. Researchers have examined cooperation in the Strait of Malacca, anti-piracy operations, search and rescue activities, and coast guard coordination. The literature shows that both countries have increased practical cooperation in these areas through information sharing and maritime surveillance. Economic cooperation has also received attention in studies on trade, investment, digital connectivity, critical minerals, and supply-chain resilience.

Despite the growing literature, important gaps remain. Most studies examine defence, maritime security, or economic relations separately. There is limited research that analyses the recent agreements across multiple sectors within one framework. Many existing studies were written before the major agreements signed during 2025 and 2026. As a result, they do not explain the latest developments in defence, critical minerals, telecommunications, healthcare, and space cooperation. Current research also discusses the Indo-Pacific in broad strategic terms but gives limited attention to how specific India–Indonesia agreements may influence regional cooperation and security.

This study addresses these gaps by examining the recent agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 and analysing their combined impact on strategic partnership, maritime security, economic cooperation, and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. It provides an updated assessment based on recent government documents, policy reports, and current academic literature.

III. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

This study is important because it examines the recent agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026 and explains their impact on the growing strategic partnership between the two countries. Many earlier studies focused on trade, maritime relations, or defence cooperation separately. This study brings these areas together and provides a broader understanding of how recent agreements have changed the nature of bilateral relations. It also explains how the partnership has expanded into new areas such as critical minerals, digital technology, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. The study therefore provides an updated analysis of India–Indonesia relations in the context of current regional and global developments.

The study is also significant because it links bilateral cooperation with the wider Indo-Pacific region. It explains how the recent agreements influence maritime security, regional connectivity, economic cooperation, and ASEAN-centred regional cooperation.

The findings can help researchers, policymakers, diplomats, and security experts understand the changing role of India and Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific. The study also identifies opportunities and challenges that may shape future cooperation between the two countries. By providing a clear and integrated analysis of recent developments, the study contributes to the growing literature on Indo-Pacific partnerships and regional strategic cooperation.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

This study aims to examine the recent agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026 and to understand their impact on the strategic partnership between the two countries. It seeks to identify the major agreements in areas such as defence, maritime security, trade, critical minerals, digital technology, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. The study also aims to analyse how these agreements have strengthened bilateral strategic cooperation and influenced Indo-Pacific security and regional cooperation. It further seeks to examine their effect on economic cooperation, connectivity, and supply-chain resilience, and to identify the opportunities and challenges that may shape the future of India–Indonesia relations.

V. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND LIMITATIONS

This study uses a qualitative research method. The analysis is based on secondary data collected from reliable and recent sources. These sources include official government documents, joint statements issued by India and Indonesia, reports from the Ministry of External Affairs of India, publications from the Prime Minister's Office of India, Indonesian government documents, ASEAN reports, policy papers, academic journal articles, books, and reports published by research organisations such as the Observer Research Foundation, ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute, and the Centre for Strategic and International Studies. Recent international news reports published between 2023 and 2026 were also used to understand the latest developments.

The study follows a descriptive and analytical approach. It first identifies the major agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026. It then examines how these agreements have influenced defence cooperation, maritime security, economic relations, technology partnerships, and regional cooperation in the Indo-Pacific. The analysis also considers the connection between the agreements and India's Act East Policy, Indonesia's Indo-Pacific outlook, and ASEAN-centred regional cooperation.

Information collected from different sources was compared and interpreted to understand the broader strategic direction of the India–Indonesia partnership and its regional significance.

The study has some limitations. It relies mainly on secondary data because many of the recent agreements are still in the early stages of implementation. Official information on financial commitments, defence technology details, and project progress is limited in some cases. The study does not include interviews with government officials, defence experts, or policymakers. The analysis is limited to the agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 and their immediate implications. Future developments may change the impact of these agreements over time. Despite these limitations, the study provides a balanced and up-to-date assessment of the recent India–Indonesia agreements and their importance for Indo-Pacific security and regional cooperation.

VI. RECENT AGREEMENTS BETWEEN INDIA AND INDONESIA

The agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026 marked an important step in the growth of their bilateral relationship. These agreements were signed during high-level meetings between Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo Subianto. They covered defence, maritime security, trade, critical minerals, digital technology, agriculture, healthcare, space cooperation, and disaster management. The agreements showed that both countries wanted to expand cooperation across many sectors and build a stronger long-term partnership.

Defence cooperation became one of the most important areas of the recent agreements. India and Indonesia agreed to increase military cooperation and defence industry collaboration. Discussions on the export of the BrahMos supersonic cruise missile system received wide attention. The agreements also included cooperation in missile technology, defence production, military training, and the exchange of defence expertise. These measures reflected growing trust between the two countries and indicated that defence cooperation had become a major part of their strategic relationship.

The defence agreements were linked with the wider security environment of the Indo-Pacific. Indonesia has tried to diversify its defence partnerships, while India has expanded its defence exports and promoted indigenous defence production. The agreements created opportunities for technology cooperation, industrial collaboration, and capacity building.

They also encouraged regular interaction between defence institutions and military officials, which can support future cooperation in defence manufacturing and joint projects.

Maritime security was another major area of cooperation. Both countries agreed to strengthen coordination between their coast guards and maritime agencies. The agreements focused on maritime safety, search and rescue cooperation, information sharing, and the protection of sea lanes. These measures are important because India and Indonesia are located near some of the world's busiest maritime routes. The Strait of Malacca carries a large share of global trade and energy supplies, making maritime coordination a common strategic interest.

Cooperation in the maritime domain has developed gradually over the past decade, but the recent agreements gave it stronger institutional support. Regular communication between maritime agencies helps both countries respond more effectively to piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, maritime accidents, and natural disasters. It also improves maritime domain awareness and supports a safer regional maritime environment.

Economic cooperation also received strong attention during the recent bilateral meetings. The two countries agreed to expand trade, investment, and industrial cooperation. They identified critical minerals and steel supply chains as important areas for future partnership. Indonesia is one of the world's leading producers of nickel and other important minerals used in batteries, electric vehicles, and clean energy technologies. India is expanding manufacturing and renewable energy production and requires secure access to these resources. The agreements created new opportunities for cooperation in processing, manufacturing, and industrial development.

The focus on critical minerals reflected wider changes in global supply chains. Many countries are trying to reduce dependence on a limited number of suppliers for strategic resources. India and Indonesia recognised that cooperation in minerals, energy, and industrial production could support economic growth and improve supply-chain resilience. This area of cooperation also has the potential to attract investment, create employment, and strengthen long-term economic links.

Digital technology and telecommunications formed another important part of the recent agreements. Both governments agreed to cooperate in digital connectivity, telecommunications, and emerging technologies. Digital infrastructure has become a key part of economic development, public services, education, and innovation.

Cooperation in this area can help both countries improve digital access, strengthen cybersecurity, and support technology-based industries.

Space cooperation was expanded through the extension of collaboration between the Indian Space Research Organisation and Indonesian space institutions. India has developed strong capabilities in satellite technology, remote sensing, and space applications. Indonesia has shown increasing interest in using space technology for communication, weather forecasting, agriculture, disaster management, and environmental monitoring. The continuation of space cooperation supports peaceful scientific collaboration and practical applications that benefit both countries.

Healthcare and agriculture were also included in the recent agreements. The two countries agreed to cooperate in medical regulation, pharmaceutical collaboration, agricultural research, and food security. These sectors have become more important after recent global disruptions caused by pandemics, climate change, and supply-chain challenges. Cooperation in these areas can improve public welfare and strengthen economic resilience.

The agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 therefore expanded India–Indonesia cooperation across security, economic, technological, and social sectors. They created practical mechanisms for long-term collaboration and provided a stronger foundation for the strategic partnership between the two countries.

VII. STRENGTHENING THE INDIA–INDONESIA STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

The recent agreements signed between India and Indonesia have strengthened the strategic partnership between the two countries in many ways. They have increased political trust, expanded defence cooperation, improved institutional coordination, and created new opportunities for long-term collaboration. The relationship is no longer based only on historical friendship and economic exchange. It now includes security, technology, maritime cooperation, and regional coordination. This change shows that both countries see each other as important strategic partners in the Indo-Pacific.

Political trust is one of the most important foundations of a strategic partnership. The agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 reflected a high level of confidence between the two governments. High-level visits by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Prabowo Subianto showed that both leaders were willing to invest political effort in the relationship.

Regular meetings between ministers, officials, and security agencies have also increased communication between the two countries. Frequent dialogue helps reduce misunderstandings and allows both sides to respond more quickly to regional developments.

Defence cooperation has played a major role in strengthening this trust. Cooperation in missile systems, defence technology, military training, and defence production requires a strong level of confidence between partner countries. Indonesia's interest in Indian defence systems showed that it viewed India as a reliable and capable defence partner. India's willingness to expand defence cooperation demonstrated its commitment to supporting Indonesia's security needs. Defence cooperation therefore became a symbol of growing strategic confidence between the two countries.

The partnership has also become more practical through institutional cooperation. Earlier relations often depended mainly on diplomatic meetings and political declarations. The recent agreements created working mechanisms between defence agencies, coast guards, space organisations, health authorities, agricultural institutions, and disaster management agencies. These institutional links allow cooperation to continue even when political leadership changes. They also help both countries develop long-term projects instead of relying only on short-term initiatives.

The expansion of maritime cooperation further strengthened the strategic partnership. India and Indonesia share an interest in protecting sea lanes, preventing illegal activities, and improving maritime safety. The agreements on coast guard coordination, maritime information sharing, and search and rescue cooperation created a stronger framework for operational collaboration. Maritime cooperation became a regular activity rather than an occasional diplomatic exercise. This practical engagement increased mutual confidence and improved coordination between security agencies.

Economic cooperation has also contributed to the stronger strategic partnership. The agreements on trade, investment, critical minerals, and industrial supply chains created new areas of mutual benefit. Economic partnerships become stronger when both countries gain long-term commercial advantages. Indonesia can benefit from Indian investment, technology, and manufacturing partnerships, while India can benefit from access to strategic minerals, energy resources, and Southeast Asian markets. These economic links create stronger interdependence and encourage regular policy coordination.



International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435 (Online) Volume 15, Issue 09, September 2026)

The focus on critical minerals is particularly important because it connects economic cooperation with strategic planning. Minerals such as nickel are essential for electric vehicles, batteries, and renewable energy technologies. India is expanding its clean energy and manufacturing sectors, while Indonesia has become a major supplier of these resources. Cooperation in this area supports industrial development and reduces dependence on uncertain global supply chains. It also creates opportunities for joint investment and technology cooperation.

Technology cooperation has added another layer to the strategic partnership. Agreements related to telecommunications, digital technology, and space research show that the relationship is moving into knowledge-based sectors. Cooperation in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, satellite applications, and research institutions encourages innovation and technical exchange. These areas are important for economic development and national security. They also help both countries prepare for future technological competition in the Indo-Pacific.

Healthcare and agriculture cooperation have expanded the partnership beyond security and defence. Collaboration in medical regulation, pharmaceuticals, agricultural research, and food production creates direct benefits for public welfare. These sectors became more important after recent global health and food security challenges. Cooperation in these areas strengthens social and economic links between the two countries and increases the public value of the strategic partnership.

Another important change has been the expansion of strategic dialogue. The recent agreements encouraged regular consultation on regional and global issues. India and Indonesia increasingly discuss maritime security, ASEAN cooperation, Indo-Pacific developments, energy security, and regional connectivity. Regular dialogue helps both countries align their positions in regional forums and international organisations. It also increases their ability to coordinate policies on issues that affect the wider Indo-Pacific region.

The agreements have strengthened the partnership because they connect many sectors within a single strategic framework. Defence cooperation supports maritime security, maritime security supports trade and connectivity, and economic cooperation supports technology partnerships and industrial development. Institutional cooperation supports long-term implementation across all these areas. Each agreement reinforces the others, creating a broader and more durable strategic partnership between India and Indonesia.

VIII. INDO-PACIFIC SECURITY AND MARITIME COOPERATION

The recent agreements between India and Indonesia have had an important effect on Indo-Pacific security and maritime cooperation. The agreements have expanded cooperation in naval coordination, coast guard operations, maritime safety, information sharing, and disaster response. These areas are important because both countries are located along major sea routes that connect the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Their cooperation helps protect trade routes, energy transport, and regional stability across the Indo-Pacific.

The geographical position of India and Indonesia gives them a special role in regional maritime affairs. India occupies a central position in the Indian Ocean, while Indonesia controls several important maritime passages, including the Strait of Malacca, the Sunda Strait, and the Lombok Strait. These waterways carry a large share of global trade and energy supplies. Any disruption in these routes can affect many countries across Asia and beyond. Because of this importance, maritime security has become a major area of cooperation between the two countries.

The Strait of Malacca remains one of the most important maritime chokepoints in the world. A large part of global trade passes through this narrow waterway every year. The security of the strait affects the movement of oil, natural gas, manufactured goods, and raw materials. India and Indonesia share an interest in keeping this route safe and open for international shipping. The recent agreements on maritime coordination and coast guard cooperation support this objective by improving communication and operational coordination between the two countries.

Maritime cooperation has become more structured through regular coordination between security agencies. Information sharing allows both countries to monitor suspicious activities at sea and respond more quickly to emerging threats. Illegal fishing, piracy, smuggling, human trafficking, and maritime accidents remain important security concerns in the region. Better coordination between maritime agencies improves surveillance and strengthens law enforcement across shared areas of interest.

The agreements have also supported greater cooperation between the Indian Navy and the Indonesian Navy. Naval cooperation includes joint exercises, port visits, training programmes, and professional exchanges.



International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435 (Online) Volume 15, Issue 09, September 2026)

These activities improve mutual understanding between military personnel and help both navies operate together more effectively. Regular interaction also creates trust, which is essential during emergencies or security crises. Naval diplomacy therefore becomes an important part of the wider strategic partnership.

Coast guard cooperation has gained importance because many maritime challenges require civilian and law enforcement responses rather than military action. Search and rescue operations, pollution control, fisheries protection, and maritime safety require specialised coordination between coast guard agencies. The recent agreements encourage closer operational contact and practical cooperation in these areas. This approach helps both countries manage everyday maritime challenges while also preparing for larger regional emergencies.

Maritime domain awareness has become another important area of cooperation. Modern maritime security depends on timely information about ship movements, weather conditions, fishing activities, and potential security threats. Satellite data, radar systems, coastal surveillance networks, and information-sharing platforms improve the ability of both countries to monitor their maritime environment. Cooperation in this field supports early warning, better decision-making, and faster operational responses.

The agreements also contribute to freedom of navigation and the security of sea lanes. India and Indonesia have consistently supported a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. They have emphasised respect for international law and peaceful resolution of disputes. Their maritime cooperation strengthens these principles by supporting safe navigation and reducing the risk of disruption in important shipping routes. This approach benefits not only the two countries but also many other trading nations that depend on Indo-Pacific maritime routes.

Disaster management cooperation is closely linked with maritime security. Both India and Indonesia are vulnerable to earthquakes, tsunamis, cyclones, floods, and volcanic eruptions. Many of these disasters affect coastal areas and maritime infrastructure. Cooperation in early warning systems, humanitarian assistance, emergency response, and disaster relief improves regional preparedness. Joint coordination during natural disasters can reduce human suffering and protect critical infrastructure such as ports and communication networks.

The Indo-Pacific security environment has become more complex because of increasing military activity and strategic competition among major powers.

In this environment, middle powers such as India and Indonesia have become more active in supporting regional stability. Their cooperation provides an approach based on dialogue, maritime coordination, and respect for international rules. The recent agreements have therefore created a stronger framework for maritime cooperation across the Indo-Pacific and increased the ability of both countries to work together in protecting sea lanes and supporting regional stability.

IX. ECONOMIC COOPERATION, CONNECTIVITY, AND SUPPLY CHAINS

The recent agreements between India and Indonesia have also strengthened economic cooperation between the two countries. Economic relations have become an important part of the strategic partnership because both countries want to expand trade, attract investment, improve industrial cooperation, and build stronger supply chains. The agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 created new opportunities in critical minerals, manufacturing, digital technology, agriculture, healthcare, and infrastructure. These areas connect economic development with long-term strategic cooperation.

Trade between India and Indonesia has grown steadily in recent years. Indonesia is one of India's largest trading partners in Southeast Asia, while India is an important market for Indonesian products. The recent agreements encourage both governments to improve market access, reduce trade barriers, and support business cooperation. Greater trade creates stronger economic links and encourages regular dialogue between government agencies and private companies.

Critical minerals have become one of the most important areas of economic cooperation. Indonesia is a major producer of nickel and other minerals that are essential for batteries, electric vehicles, and renewable energy technologies. India is expanding manufacturing and clean energy production and needs reliable access to these resources. Cooperation in mining, mineral processing, and industrial production helps both countries develop long-term economic partnerships. It also supports new investment in manufacturing and technology industries.

The agreements also encourage industrial cooperation and value-chain development. Instead of trading only raw materials, both countries can cooperate in processing, manufacturing, and technology transfer. Such cooperation creates employment, supports industrial growth, and increases the value of exports. It also helps both countries reduce dependence on external suppliers for important industrial products.

Supply-chain resilience has become a major concern in recent years because of global disruptions caused by pandemics, geopolitical tensions, and transport problems. India and Indonesia have recognised the need for more reliable and diversified supply chains. The recent agreements support cooperation in strategic resources, manufacturing networks, logistics, and industrial connectivity. A stronger supply-chain partnership reduces economic risk and improves the ability of both countries to respond to future disruptions.

Digital connectivity has become another important part of economic cooperation. Agreements on telecommunications and digital technology encourage collaboration in digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, data systems, and innovation. Better digital connectivity supports trade, education, finance, healthcare, and public services. It also creates opportunities for technology companies, start-ups, and research institutions in both countries.

Connectivity is closely linked with regional cooperation. India's Act East Policy aims to improve economic and strategic links with Southeast Asia, while Indonesia seeks stronger connectivity within the Indo-Pacific region. Better maritime links, port cooperation, logistics networks, and transport infrastructure can increase trade and investment across the region. Cooperation in connectivity therefore supports both bilateral economic growth and wider regional integration.

ASEAN remains an important platform for economic cooperation. Indonesia is one of the leading members of ASEAN, and India has expanded its engagement with ASEAN through trade, investment, and regional initiatives. The recent agreements strengthen this connection by encouraging cooperation through ASEAN-led economic and connectivity programmes. They also support broader efforts to improve regional supply chains and economic resilience across the Indo-Pacific.

The agreements therefore show that economic cooperation has become a major pillar of the India-Indonesia partnership. Trade, critical minerals, digital technology, connectivity, and resilient supply chains now form an important link between economic development and strategic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

X. FUTURE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES IN INDIA-INDONESIA RELATIONS

The recent agreements have created a strong foundation for future cooperation between India and Indonesia. The partnership is likely to expand further in defence, maritime security, digital technology, renewable energy, critical minerals, and regional connectivity.

Both countries have shown a clear interest in increasing practical cooperation and building long-term institutional links. Their shared support for a free, open, and inclusive Indo-Pacific also provides a common strategic direction for future engagement.

Defence cooperation offers one of the largest opportunities for future growth. India has developed important capabilities in missile systems, naval platforms, aerospace technology, and defence manufacturing. Indonesia is modernising its defence forces and seeking reliable partners for technology transfer and industrial cooperation. Joint production, training programmes, defence research, and military exchanges can deepen strategic cooperation and create long-term industrial partnerships.

Maritime cooperation is also likely to grow because both countries share important sea routes and common security interests. Regular naval exercises, coast guard coordination, maritime surveillance, and disaster response cooperation can strengthen regional security. Cooperation in maritime infrastructure, ports, and logistics networks can also improve connectivity across the Indian Ocean and Southeast Asia.

Critical minerals and renewable energy provide another important opportunity. Indonesia possesses large reserves of nickel and other minerals that are essential for electric vehicles and clean energy technologies. India is expanding its manufacturing and renewable energy sectors and needs secure access to these resources. Long-term cooperation in mining, processing, battery production, and clean energy investment can benefit both countries.

Digital technology and innovation are likely to become more important in the coming years. Cooperation in telecommunications, cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, digital infrastructure, and research can support economic growth and technological development. Educational partnerships and skill development programmes can also strengthen human resource cooperation and innovation.

At the same time, several challenges may affect the future of the partnership. Many agreements require effective implementation, financial investment, and administrative coordination. Delays in project execution can reduce the practical impact of bilateral cooperation. Defence and infrastructure projects often require long-term planning and technical coordination, which can slow progress.

Regional strategic competition may also create challenges. The Indo-Pacific has become an area of growing rivalry among major powers. India and Indonesia both seek strategic autonomy and prefer balanced relations with different partners. Maintaining this balance while expanding bilateral cooperation will require careful diplomacy and regular political dialogue.

Institutional coordination remains another challenge. Different ministries, agencies, and regulatory systems are involved in implementing bilateral agreements. Stronger coordination mechanisms and regular monitoring will be necessary to ensure that agreements produce practical results and continue to support the long-term development of the India–Indonesia strategic partnership.

XI. FINDINGS

The study finds that the agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026 have strengthened the relationship between the two countries in several important ways. The partnership has expanded beyond trade and cultural cooperation and now includes defence, maritime security, critical minerals, digital technology, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. This shows that both countries are building a broader and more practical strategic partnership.

The study also finds that defence cooperation has become a major pillar of the relationship. Agreements related to military collaboration, defence production, technology exchange, and missile cooperation have increased political trust between the two countries. Regular interaction between defence institutions has created a stronger foundation for long-term strategic cooperation.

Another important finding is that maritime cooperation has gained greater importance in the Indo-Pacific context. The agreements have improved coordination between naval and coast guard agencies and have increased cooperation in maritime safety, information sharing, search and rescue operations, and protection of sea lanes. This cooperation is especially important because both countries are located near major maritime routes that connect the Indian and Pacific Oceans.

The study further finds that economic cooperation has become closely linked with strategic interests. Cooperation in critical minerals, manufacturing, digital technology, and resilient supply chains has created new opportunities for investment and industrial development. These agreements support economic diversification and reduce dependence on uncertain global supply chains.

The analysis shows that both countries share a common interest in supporting a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific. Their cooperation through ASEAN and other regional institutions has strengthened regional dialogue and practical collaboration. The agreements therefore have significance beyond bilateral relations and contribute to wider regional stability and connectivity.

The study also identifies several challenges. Many agreements are still in the early stages of implementation. Administrative coordination, financial resources, regulatory differences, and regional strategic competition may affect their long-term impact. The effectiveness of the partnership will depend on sustained political commitment and regular institutional cooperation between the two countries.

XII. DISCUSSION

The recent agreements between India and Indonesia show that their relationship has entered a new strategic phase. Earlier cooperation focused mainly on trade, culture, and diplomatic exchanges. The agreements signed during 2025 and 2026 have expanded cooperation into defence, maritime security, critical minerals, digital technology, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. This change reflects the growing importance of the Indo-Pacific and the need for stronger regional partnerships. Defence cooperation has become a major part of the relationship through discussions on missile systems, defence production, military training, and technology exchange. Maritime cooperation has also gained greater importance because both countries are located near major sea routes that connect the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Better coordination between naval and coast guard agencies improves maritime safety, information sharing, and emergency response. These developments show that the partnership is becoming more practical and institution based. They also support a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific and strengthen cooperation through ASEAN and other regional institutions.

The agreements also show that economic cooperation is now closely connected with strategic interests. Cooperation in critical minerals, manufacturing, digital technology, and resilient supply chains creates new opportunities for investment and industrial development. Indonesia's mineral resources and India's manufacturing and technology capabilities provide a strong basis for long-term cooperation. The partnership has become more comprehensive because it now includes healthcare, agriculture, disaster management, education, and space technology. These sectors create direct benefits for society and strengthen institutional links between the two countries. At the same time, the study identifies important challenges. Many agreements are still in the early stages of implementation. Financial constraints, regulatory differences, administrative delays, and regional strategic competition may affect their long-term impact. Stronger coordination mechanisms and regular policy dialogue will be necessary to ensure that the agreements produce practical results and continue to strengthen the India–Indonesia strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific.

XIII. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

India and Indonesia should create a stronger system to monitor the implementation of the agreements signed during 2025 and 2026. A joint review mechanism can help both governments examine progress, identify delays, and solve practical problems at an early stage. Regular meetings between officials from both countries will improve coordination and maintain political attention on important projects.

Defence cooperation should move from dialogue to joint production and technology collaboration. Both countries can encourage cooperation between defence industries, research institutions, and military organisations. Joint training programmes, defence education, and exchanges of technical experts should be expanded. These measures will strengthen defence capability and build long-term trust between security institutions.

Maritime cooperation should receive greater financial and technical support. India and Indonesia can improve maritime surveillance, information sharing, coast guard coordination, and disaster response systems. Joint exercises should be conducted regularly in areas such as search and rescue, pollution control, and humanitarian assistance. Better coordination will improve the security of important sea routes and support regional stability.

Economic cooperation should focus on critical minerals, renewable energy, digital technology, and resilient supply chains. Both countries should encourage investment in mineral processing, battery manufacturing, clean energy projects, and digital infrastructure. Business partnerships and research collaboration should be supported through clear policies and simplified regulations. Greater cooperation between universities and technology institutions can also promote innovation and skill development.

Both countries should strengthen cooperation through ASEAN and other regional institutions. They should support projects related to maritime connectivity, sustainable development, disaster management, and regional supply-chain resilience. Regular policy dialogue on Indo-Pacific security and economic cooperation will help align their regional priorities. A stronger institutional framework and practical cooperation across multiple sectors will make the India–Indonesia strategic partnership more effective and durable in the coming years.

XIV. CONCLUSION

The recent agreements signed between India and Indonesia during 2025 and 2026 have given a new direction to their bilateral relationship.

The partnership has expanded from traditional cooperation in trade and culture to a broader framework that includes defence, maritime security, critical minerals, digital technology, healthcare, agriculture, and space cooperation. These agreements have strengthened political trust, improved institutional coordination, and created practical mechanisms for long-term cooperation. They have also increased coordination in maritime security and strengthened cooperation through ASEAN and other regional institutions. The study shows that India and Indonesia now share a stronger strategic understanding of the Indo-Pacific and have become more important partners in maintaining regional stability and connectivity.

The study also shows that the future of the partnership will depend on effective implementation of the agreements and sustained political commitment from both countries. Opportunities exist in defence production, maritime cooperation, renewable energy, digital technology, and resilient supply chains. At the same time, financial constraints, administrative delays, regulatory differences, and regional strategic competition may affect the pace of cooperation. A stronger institutional framework and regular policy dialogue will be necessary to ensure that the agreements produce long-term results. India and Indonesia have the potential to play a larger role in shaping a stable, open, and cooperative Indo-Pacific, and their recent agreements provide a strong foundation for deeper strategic engagement in the years ahead.

REFERENCES

- [1] Acharya, A. (2021). *The end of American world order* (2nd ed.). Polity Press.
- [2] Acharya, A. (2021). Regional worlds in a post-hegemonic era. *International Affairs*, 97(1), 271–289. <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iaa175>
- [3] Acharya, A. (2023). Regional security in Asia. *Asian Perspective*, 47(2), 145–162.
- [4] ASEAN. (2023). *ASEAN outlook on the Indo-Pacific: Progress report*. ASEAN Secretariat.
- [5] ASEAN. (2024). *ASEAN statistical yearbook 2024*. ASEAN Secretariat.
- [6] Brewster, D. (2022). *India and China at sea: Competition for naval dominance in the Indian Ocean* (2nd ed.). Oxford University Press.
- [7] Brewster, D. (2024). India's maritime strategy in the eastern Indian Ocean. *Journal of the Indian Ocean Region*, 20(1), 1–18.
- [8] Centre for Strategic and International Studies. (2024). *Indonesia's foreign policy under President Prabowo: Continuity and change*. CSIS Indonesia.
- [9] Centre for Strategic and International Studies. (2025). *Maritime security and strategic cooperation in Southeast Asia*. CSIS Indonesia.
- [10] Chaudhury, D. R. (2025, January 25). India and Indonesia deepen strategic partnership with new agreements. *The Economic Times*. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com>



International Journal of Recent Development in Engineering and Technology
Website: www.ijrdet.com (ISSN 2347-6435 (Online) Volume 15, Issue 09, September 2026)

- [11] Grare, F. (2023). India turns east: International engagement and US-China rivalry. Hurst.
- [12] Grare, F. (2024). India and Southeast Asia in the Indo-Pacific. Asian Survey, 64(1), 85–104.
- [13] Indian Navy. (2024). Annual maritime security report 2024. Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence.
- [14] Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. (2023). The state of Southeast Asia survey report 2023. ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.
- [15] Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. (2024). The state of Southeast Asia survey report 2024. ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.
- [16] Institute of Southeast Asian Studies. (2025). The state of Southeast Asia survey report 2025. ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.
- [17] International Institute for Strategic Studies. (2024). The military balance 2024. Routledge.
- [18] International Monetary Fund. (2024). Regional economic outlook: Asia and Pacific. IMF.
- [19] Jha, P. S. (2023). India and Indonesia in the Indo-Pacific. Strategic Analysis, 47(3), 215–230.
- [20] Khurana, G. S. (2023). Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific. Naval War College Review, 76(4), 39–60.
- [21] Lowy Institute. (2023). Asia power index 2023. Lowy Institute.
- [22] Lowy Institute. (2024). Asia power index 2024. Lowy Institute.
- [23] Medcalf, R. (2020). Contest for the Indo-Pacific: Why China won't map the future. Manchester University Press.
- [24] Ministry of Defence, Government of India. (2024). Annual report 2023–24. <https://mod.gov.in>
- [25] Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (2024). India–Indonesia bilateral relations. <https://mea.gov.in>
- [26] Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (2025). India–Indonesia joint statement on the state visit by the Prime Minister of India to Indonesia. <https://mea.gov.in>
- [27] Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. (2026). Outcomes of the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia. <https://mea.gov.in>
- [28] Observer Research Foundation. (2023). India–Indonesia strategic partnership in the Indo-Pacific. ORF.
- [29] Observer Research Foundation. (2024). Maritime cooperation between India and Indonesia: Emerging opportunities. ORF.
- [30] Observer Research Foundation. (2025). Critical minerals and India–Indonesia economic cooperation. ORF.
- [31] Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development. (2024). Economic outlook for Southeast Asia, China and India 2024. OECD Publishing.
- [32] Pant, H. V. (2022). India's foreign policy and the Indo-Pacific. Routledge.
- [33] Pant, H. V. (2023). India's Act East Policy and Southeast Asia. International Affairs, 99(2), 567–584.
- [34] Prabowo Subianto. (2025). Address during the India–Indonesia strategic partnership meetings. Government of Indonesia.
- [35] Prime Minister's Office, Government of India. (2025). India–Indonesia joint statement during the state visit of the Prime Minister of India to Indonesia. <https://pmindia.gov.in>
- [36] Prime Minister's Office, Government of India. (2026). List of outcomes of the Prime Minister's visit to Indonesia. <https://pmindia.gov.in>
- [37] Reuters. (2026, July 7). India's Modi and Indonesia's Prabowo hold talks on defence and economic cooperation. <https://www.reuters.com>
- [38] Rüländ, J. (2022). The ASEAN regional forum and security governance in the Indo-Pacific. Routledge.
- [39] Scott, D. (2022). India's Indo-Pacific strategy. Journal of the Indian Ocean Region, 18(2), 145–162.
- [40] Singh, R. (2024). India–Indonesia defence cooperation: New opportunities in the Indo-Pacific. Strategic Studies Quarterly, 18(1), 55–74.
- [41] Storey, I. (2023). Southeast Asian responses to the Indo-Pacific concept. Contemporary Southeast Asia, 45(1), 1–22.
- [42] Sukma, R. (2023). Indonesia's Indo-Pacific outlook and regional diplomacy. Contemporary Southeast Asia, 45(3), 321–339.
- [43] The Jakarta Post. (2025, January 26). Indonesia and India expand cooperation in defence and trade. <https://www.thejakartapost.com>
- [44] The Jakarta Post. (2026, July 8). New India–Indonesia agreements strengthen strategic partnership. <https://www.thejakartapost.com>
- [45] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2024). Review of maritime transport 2024. UNCTAD.
- [46] United Nations Conference on Trade and Development. (2025). Global trade update 2025. UNCTAD.
- [47] World Bank. (2024). Indonesia economic prospects: Digital transformation and industrial development. World Bank.
- [48] World Bank. (2025). South Asia development update: Trade, technology and regional cooperation. World Bank.
- [49] World Economic Forum. (2024). The global risks report 2024. World Economic Forum.
- [50] Yusof Ishak Institute. (2024). ASEAN, maritime security, and the Indo-Pacific. ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.
- [51] Yusof Ishak Institute. (2025). Strategic trends in Southeast Asia 2025. ISEAS–Yusof Ishak Institute.