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# Indonesia-India Maritime Cooperation: Implications on Indonesia's Maritime Security from a Cultural Perspective

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## Abstract

Indonesia and India have been enjoying a long-standing relationship, rooted in cultural, historical, and economic ties. In recent years, the two nations have increasingly cooperated in the maritime sector, recognizing the potential of their vast coastlines and maritime resources. This paper examines the implications of Indonesia-India maritime cooperation on Indonesia's maritime security from a cultural dimension. The study adopts a qualitative approach, analyzing existing literature, reports, and policy documents to provide an in-depth understanding of the cultural dimensions of Indonesia-India maritime cooperation. The research highlights the shared cultural heritage of the two nations, including their maritime traditions, customs, and practices, which have enabled them to build trust and cooperation in the maritime domain. The paper explores the impact of Indonesia-India maritime cooperation on Indonesia's maritime security, examining the challenges and opportunities that arise from such cooperation. The study argues that cultural factors, such as shared values, beliefs, and norms, have played a crucial role in facilitating cooperation between the two nations, resulting in a positive impact on Indonesia's maritime security. The paper concludes by offering recommendations for strengthening Indonesia-India maritime cooperation from a cultural perspective, emphasizing the need to recognize and leverage the cultural dimensions of this cooperation to enhance maritime security in the region.

**Keywords:** Indonesia-India Maritime Cooperation, Maritime Security, Cultural Dimensions, Shared Heritage, Trust, Cooperation

## 1. Introduction

India and Indonesia are the two most populous countries in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). Besides being demographically significant, geography has afforded these countries the prospect of exerting greater influence than they have thus far been capable or willing to attempt. The Indian peninsula occupies a dominant position in the eponymous ocean, proximate to critical shipping lanes that fuel Asia's economic growth. The Indonesian archipelago sits at the confluence of the Indian and Pacific Oceans and the South China Sea, thus placed at the pivot of the Indo-Pacific region. While each of these countries has significant untapped potential, the prospect of what they may achieve through collaboration and cooperation especially in the maritime domain is even more promising (Gopal and Alverdian, 2021).

India and Indonesia are maritime neighbours in a region that has been described as a 'key driver of global politics' (Clinton, 2011). The need for maritime security cooperation between these countries stems from two broad factors. First, both countries rely on unimpeded access to the global commons to sustain economic growth and to fulfil socio-economic aspirations of their citizens. Second, significant security challenges in the Indo-Pacific region threaten the legitimate use of the oceans for economic activity and impose substantial costs on littoral countries. Renewed awareness of vulnerabilities and limitations in national capacities to tackle threats early and effectively is arguably the most compelling reasons to enhance maritime security cooperation between India and Indonesia

Geographically, Indonesia is directly bordered by two oceans, namely the Indian and Pacific Oceans. Therefore, Indonesia joined the two regional organizations in both oceans. The Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is the only regional organization that represents the coastal countries of the Indian Ocean. The Indian Ocean has strategic values especially for the world economy, namely as a trade link from Asia to Europe-Africa and vice versa. In line with the Global Maritime Nexus concept, Indonesia's joining with IORA can become a medium for realizing the Global Maritime Nexus (Kominfo, 2017). Indonesia always supports peace, security, stability, and prosperity of the world through a non-aligned foreign policy with the principle of preserving purity as a nonaligned country. Indonesia does not show partiality to any block and takes the methods of dialogue in dealing with international problems, and actively participates in maintaining world peace, in resolving international tensions (Midhio and Priyono, 2019)

According to President Jokowi, the development of the marine sector is Indonesia's focus in the 21st century and emphasizes the 5 main pillars of the Global Maritime Nexus (GMN). The introduction mentioned the Global Maritime Nexus (GMN). would be realized if the defense of Indonesia's maritime power was adequate so that it would cause a deterrence effect on threats to national sovereignty and security (Subur, Midhio and Sulistyadi, 2022). Based on the Indonesian Maritime Policy White Paper: Towards a Global Maritime Nexus (GMN). year 2017 (Pusat P2K-OI Kemlu dan CSIS, 2017), The five pillars of the Global Maritime Nexus (GMN) vision. then developed into seven pillars in the 2017 Indonesian Marine Policy which include: 1) management of marine resources and human resources, 2) defense, security, law enforcement and marine safety, 3) marine governance and institutions, 4) economy, infrastructure and increasing welfare, 5) management of marine space and protection of the marine environment, 6) maritime culture, and 7) maritime diplomacy (Coordinating Ministry for Maritime Affairs RI, 2017).

At the bilateral level, the Defense Cooperation Agreement was signed in 2001 between the two countries during Prime Minister Vajpayee's visit to Indonesia (Das, 2013,). This agreement binds the two countries to exchange information, exercises, reciprocal visits, education, and training. It also seeks to enhance cooperation in the areas of defense technology, human resource capacity and operational capabilities. While this agreement took 6 years to be ratified by the Indonesian Parliament (Das, 2013,), one of the operational outcomes that was institutionalized relatively quickly was the establishment of the India-Indonesia Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT) at sea. which began in 2002 (Brewster, 2012).

Maritime defense and security cooperation between Indonesia and India has existed for a long time and has resulted in several agreements that have been established, including Cooperative Activities in the Field of Defense in 2001, Coordinated Patrol in 2002, New Strategic Partnership in 2005, and in 2015 it was agreed that defense cooperation and the defense industry (Kurniawan, 2017). In particular, maritime cooperation between Indonesia and India has been established since early 2000, where Indonesia and India formed a new strategic partnership on maritime affairs and fisheries.

In 2014, Indonesia and India entered into an agreement to increase cooperation and joint maritime patrols, the two naval leaders of each country attended the event. In 2015 maritime cooperation between Indonesia and India experienced a significant increase compared to previous years where there was an increase from the amount of cooperation to six maritime collaborations, namely joint maritime exercises, bilateral joint exercises, joint patrols, visits by Indian ships to Indonesia, visits Indonesian ships to India and maritime defense and security agreements.

Based on the background explanation above, we can see how the relationship between Indonesia and India in the field of maritime defense and security has been going on for quite a long time and we can see that the cooperation between Indonesia and India is always increasing. Historically, Indonesia and India have close cultural ties that have the potential to establish mutually beneficial cooperation. Basically, Indonesia and India have a lot in common. These two countries have similarities in terms of cultural, religious, ethnic, and regional language diversity. In addition, the population of these two countries also has a very large number. Indonesia and India are two economic powers in Asia.

This paper aims to examine the implications of Indonesia-India maritime cooperation for India's maritime security from a cultural dimension, bearing in mind that many studies have examined Maritime Policy from an international policy standpoint, based on a review of Geopolitics, and Public Policy. Nainggolan's research (2015) examines Joko Widodo's Global Maritime Nexus Policy and its International Implications. The research results reveal inconsistent responses from other countries in their investment policies towards infrastructure development, as well as the emergence of a critical and even assertive attitude towards law enforcement in Indonesia's seas. Research by Yanyan and Montratama (2015) examines Indonesia as a Global Maritime Nexus: A Geopolitical Review. The study findings show that the Global Maritime Nexus as Indonesia's geopolitics takes advantage of geopolitical dynamics that occur in the region for Indonesia's national interests. Darmawan et al.'s research (2020) examines Maritime Policy Governance in Indonesia from a Sound Governance Perspective. The results of the study show that maritime axis is the main economic resource for increasing welfare. Research by Hanggarini et al., (2022) which examines Maritime Culture and Maritime Diplomacy for the National Interest Based on the perspective of International Relations theory. The results of the study reveal that the pillars of maritime culture and maritime diplomacy are both reflections of national interests that can support the vision of the Global Maritime Nexus. In addition, the attachment of maritime culture to Indonesian society can have positive implications for the inputs, processes, outputs, and outcomes of maritime diplomacy.

This study recognizes that cultural factors, such as shared values, beliefs, and norms, play an important role in facilitating cooperation between countries. The cultural approach is believed to be one of the capitals for creating interregional cooperation. The cultural interactions and exchanges that occur produce cultural wealth that has the potential to be developed as capital for creating regional civilizational dialogue. This diversity can become the foundation of harmony through acculturation and assimilation. Based on this, this paper aims to analyze the cultural dimensions of Indonesia-India maritime cooperation and its impact on Indonesia's maritime security.

## **2. Method**

Based on the objectives to be achieved in the research, namely, to be able to describe, explain or describe the research results as a whole and in depth, the type of research used is qualitative research. Data collection techniques in this study include observation/observation, documentation, and literature study. Data analysis techniques in research use techniques developed by McNabb (2002), namely Grouping the data according to key constructs, identifying bases for interpretation, developing generalizations from the data, Testing Alternative interpretations and forming and/or refining generalizable theory from case study.

## **3. Results**

### *3.1 History of Relations between Indonesia and India*

Historically, relations between India and Indonesia have existed for 2000 years. G. Coedes who was an Indian visited Indonesia in the first or second century AD. As a result of the prohibition of gold exports by the Romans, the Indians came to Southeast Asia with shipping knowledge in search of gold and spices. Apart from trading, the Indian colonists who came to Indonesia also played a role in the spread of Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism. Indian culture at that time was introduced and began to be practiced in various fields such as political organization, architecture, religious rituals and also language.

The relationship between Indonesia and India can be seen in India's efforts to include its support and recognition for Indonesian independence. In 1947 Jawaharlal Nehru requested special attention from the United Nations or the United Nations so that the Dutch would stop their military aggression against Indonesia. The UN then sent its representatives and was able to stop the Dutch aggression. As sovereign countries, India and Indonesia then officially established diplomatic relations on March 3, 1951 (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India, 1967).

The similarities between the two countries, such as ethnic diversity as a strength of social and cultural values, are based on historical experience and have jointly pioneered the new rise of Asian-African countries with the establishment of the Asian-African Conference in Bandung in 1955. Apart from that, the two countries have the same concern in fighting for the interests of developing countries in international forums of the Non-Aligned Movement, G-77, G-15, and South cooperation (Arifin, 2008)

India's assistance was also shown in its efforts to resolve the United Nations on the return of Irian Jaya in 1961 to Indonesia. At that time, India proposed that Indonesia and the Netherlands hold negotiations and settle the issue of Irian Jaya peacefully. This consistent support has resulted in a common attitude between the two countries in the context of peace and prosperity. The relationship then continued in economic cooperation in trade, loans and joint ventures. In 1966, Adam Malik visited India and entered into an agreement for an Indonesian-Indian trade delegation agreement (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Government of India, 1967)

The following year, in May 1975 to be exact, Indonesia was honored by President Fakhruddin Ali's visit. During his visit, President Ali stated that the interaction between Indonesia and India has a very broad scope which will bring positive results for both countries. The trade established between India and ASEAN makes India the seventh largest trading partner for ASEAN. In order to maintain bilateral relations between the two, each country has Embassies in Jakarta and New Delhi. India also considers Indonesia as a key country in ASEAN so that the two countries form a strategic partnership or strategic partnership to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. The Strategic Partnership between India and Indonesia was signed when President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono visited India in 2005. The signing of the agreement was implemented to enhance bilateral cooperation and strengthen Indonesia-India relations.

For India, Indonesia is a large and important country in the Southeast Asian region to be the main counterbalance to China's power in the economic and political spheres. Indonesia's geographical location between the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean is also used to deal with China's maritime power in the Maluku and Pacific regions. Relations between Indonesia and the United States which tend to be stable are also used by India to build strategic strength for America and its allied countries. India also hopes to carry out multipolar cooperation with other countries. In addition, establishing good relations with Indonesia, which incidentally is the country with the largest Muslim population, will connect India with other Islamic countries in the world. India considers that Indonesia still adheres to Islam which is more open and influenced by Sufi and Hindu rituals in India. This is also expected to be able to bridge India with the association of Islamic countries.

### *3.2 Indonesia-India Maritime Cooperation Based on a Cultural Perspective*

Daniels et al., (2013) present a definition of culture as "learned norms based on the values, attitudes, and beliefs of a group of people." Later, according to Ball et al., (2012), culture has been defined as "the sum total of beliefs, rules, techniques, institutions and artifacts that characterize a human population." In other words, culture consists of "individual worldviews, social rules, and interpersonal dynamics that characterize a group of people organized in a particular place and time. Culture' or more precisely 'culture' influences state behavior in international security issues (Katzenstein, 1996)

There are three basic assumptions about the importance of culture in international relations. First, interactions between people, including between countries, are more determined by ideas rather than material factors. This notion is important because it determines the meaning of material reality. Second, the idea is intersubjective, namely it becomes a kind of 'shared understanding' between actors. Although it focuses on the dimension of

ideas, constructivism is not a psychological view that sees individuals as independent entities. In contrast to psychology, which is very subjective, constructivists emphasize inter-subjectivity where meaning is formed from the results of social interaction and not mere individual perception. For example, marriage requires a shared meaning between 'husband' and 'wife' because if that does not happen then there is no such thing as 'marriage'. Third, intersubjectivity shapes the interests and actions of actors. In contrast to realists and liberals who view interests as exogenous - as drivers of action - for constructivists interests are derivations of ideas. Without ideas there is no concept of interest, without interests there is no meaningful action (Finnemore and Sikkink, 2001). In the world of diplomacy, culture is also a source of national strength. Joseph Nye said that culture is a source of soft power where its role is no less important than hard power. Culture here is not meant merely as popular culture (pop-culture) as most people often associate it with (Rosyidin, 2015)

The long history of cooperative relations between India and Indonesia has been going on for a long time since the days of the Hindu-Buddhist kingdoms. Marked by socio-cultural, political-economic, and scientific exchanges, it can be seen that the two countries already have a strong foundation and many similarities to improve bilateral relations. Culturally, of course, this provides opportunities for cooperation that is mutually beneficial. In addition, the two countries are also known for their large population numbers, with a very large population it is certainly not impossible for Indonesia and India to become economically strong countries in the Asian region. In addition, it also has a large youth population which could be useful for achieving demographic gains in the future.

Indonesia and India share a rich cultural heritage, with historical and archaeological evidence pointing to a long-standing relationship between the two countries. The two countries have been linked through centuries of trade, religion, and cultural exchanges. The maritime traditions of the two countries are also closely intertwined, with both countries having a strong seafaring culture. The two countries have collaborated in preserving and promoting traditional seafaring know-how, such as navigation techniques and shipbuilding. Cooperation in traditional maritime knowledge has led to the development of joint research programs and training courses, enhancing the skills of the maritime community in both countries.

With a rich cultural history, India and Indonesia enjoy a similar set of traditions and lifestyles. Indonesia has certain karmic rules that are like India such as: respect based on hierarchical relationships that are continuously maintained, younger people must show respect to older people by bowing with folded arms, recognition of social status, shoes and hats must be removed when entering someone else's house, etc. Lombard (2008) explains that there are three indicators for appreciating how the cultural contact between India and Indonesia has permeated the lives of Indonesian people. The first clue is the legend of Raja Aji Saka, which tells how a son of a king of Brahmin descent came from India and settled in Medang Kamulan. The second clue is the 16th century Javanese text, *Tantu Panggelaran*. The manuscript, according to Denys Lombard, is a guidebook for Hindu hermitages on the island of Java. The third clue is that many place names on the island of Java are derived from Sanskrit, proving there was a desire to recreate India's geography.

Supriyanto (2013) suggests that Indonesia-India cooperation can form mandala coherence. Indonesia-India cooperation has evolved from where previously there were dynamics of disagreement turning into a complementary relationship due to the common fear of China's strengthening (Brewster, 2011). Indonesia and India both hope to realize multipolar conditions in their respective regions and also to be recognized internationally as regional power countries. Furthermore, Brewster (2011) argues that India's efforts to strengthen relations with Indonesia are to expand its influence in Southeast Asia. Geographically, Indonesia is in a golden position, namely at the entrance to the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean. Indonesia's geographical position is of great interest to India, which is also expanding its role in the Asia-Pacific

Even though Indonesia has common interests with India, India does not make Indonesia a threat, but a strategic partner to strengthen defense cooperation with the aim of mutually achieving the national interests of each country. This is evidenced by the existence of an agreement in the form of Shared Vision on Maritime as a form of shared vision between India's Act East Policy policy and Indonesia's Maritime Axis. India and Indonesia recognize that both countries are strategically located as maritime powers, with India occupying a central

position in the Indo-Pacific and Indonesia as the fulcrum connecting the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The two leaders are committed to upholding international law, global common freedoms which are essential to the maintenance of regional peace, stability, and prosperity.

Like India, Indonesia is a pluralist democracy with the fourth largest population in the world with a population of 250 million people who upholds unity amidst diversity with the motto *Bhineka Tunggal Ika*. This is of course in line with India's condition, which both strive for stability and peace amidst differences in language, culture and religion. Both India and Indonesia, the two countries share the same vision of ensuring maritime security and the safety of sea lines of communication. The two countries emphasized the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight on the high seas, trade without barriers, and resolving maritime disputes in a peaceful manner in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law.

Jha (2008) writes that this security cooperation is very important for both countries when security becomes important, when India needs to guard its interests in Southeast Asia and when Indonesia needs a cooperation partner who is 'tame' for its security. The cooperation includes maritime security, energy security, and counter-terrorism cooperation. According to Jha (2008), India and Indonesia both have complementary interests in security matters. Aceh is one of the regions of Indonesia which has sea borders with India. The location of Aceh is only 162 kilometers from the closest point of the Bay of Bengal. Maritime cooperation between India and Indonesia will focus on security around the Aceh region and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Berthold D. H. Sinaulan put forward the idea to carry out development in the framework of utilizing maritime cultural heritage. According to him, Indonesia could promote maritime shipping lanes known as the "spice route" as carried out by China in promoting the "silk route" or by India with the "Meusam route". He suggested that archaeologists could make efforts in that direction. Such an effort is important because it can have an impact on increasing the sense of pride as an Indonesian nation and can bring in foreign exchange (Rahardjo, 2018).

Maritime cooperation between Indonesia and India was implemented by increasing maritime cooperation between Indonesia and India from 2011 to 2015. In 2011 Indonesia and India agreed to continue maritime and fisheries cooperation which was approved in 2005. In the same year Indonesia and India agreed to develop a vision strategic mission in the next 15 years. Two years later or in 2013, the two countries agreed to set five important points that must be achieved to strengthen cooperation between the two. The two sides agreed to increase cooperation and joint maritime patrols to a higher level than before in 2014. In that year the two naval leaders of each country attended and became actors who opened and closed ceremonial events. Then in 2015 the coordinated patrol cooperation (CORPAT) was increased by creating a different CORPAT than in previous years, namely the form of CORPAT which was followed by the Inaugural India-Indonesia Bilateral Maritime Exercise. (Indian Navy, 2015).

Indonesia-India maritime cooperation experienced the most significant increase in 2015 when compared to previous years. The increase can be seen from the number of collaborations that have been established this year. Indonesia and India in 2015 carried out six maritime collaborations that were established in various forms of cooperation, namely multilateral joint maritime exercises, bilateral joint military exercises, joint patrols, visits by Indian ships to Indonesia, visits by Indonesian ships to India, and maritime defense and security agreements. The number of these collaborations has greatly increased compared to 2013 which only amounted to three collaborations and in 2014 there were also three collaborations. In addition to the number of maritime cooperation, the increase can also be seen from the joint patrol cooperation or the 26th CORPAT in 2015 which expanded not only to include patrol activities but also joint military training of the two countries (Indian Navy, 2015).

Based on the perspective of national defense, maritime culture is the basis for the formation of elements of maritime defense in Indonesia. A strong maritime defense is determined by a strong maritime culture (Wiranto, 2020). While culture in a sociological perspective, can be understood as a habit that lasts for several years that is inherent in a social structure of society. Culture can be born because of a continuous pattern of relationships

between humans and humans, humans and society and humans and their environment (Octavian and Yulianto, 2014).

Indonesian Maritime Culture is embodied in the five pillars of the Global Maritime Nexus vision and then developed into seven pillars in the 2017 Indonesian Maritime Policy which include: 1) management of marine resources and human resources, 2) defense, security, law enforcement and maritime safety, 3) governance marine management and institutions, 4) economy, infrastructure and welfare improvement, 5) management of sea space and protection of the marine environment, 6) maritime culture, and 7) maritime diplomacy (Ministry of Maritime Affairs RI, 2017). Through the vision of the Global Maritime Nexus, President Jokowi's government is determined to rebuild Indonesia's maritime glory which stems from the historical traces of the archipelago (the era of the Sriwijaya and Majapahit Kingdoms) and the momentum for the birth of the Juanda Declaration in the post-independence era. (Yanuarti, Wibisono dan Midhio, 2020).

Based on the uniqueness of its geographical identity, Indonesia is a maritime and archipelagic country located in a strategic location between two oceans and two continents (Kristiyanto et al., 2021). Maritime culture also allows people to have an attitude of tenacity, hard work, entrepreneurship, mutual cooperation, respect for differences, and love for the environment. The maritime cultural knot makes the sea a space with many functions, namely a living space, a fighting space, a place to study, work, work, exercise and be creative and a space to educate the public. Because the sea has a broad function space and determines maritime culture, in the Indonesian Marine Policy, the Government establishes a maritime cultural policy strategy program, namely: increasing education and public awareness about maritime affairs, identifying and inventorying marine cultural values and social systems in the territory of the Unitary State of the Republic of Indonesia Indonesia, evoke an understanding of maritime insights and culture, harmonize and develop elements of local wisdom into a sustainable management and utilization system of marine resources, and maintain, develop and enhance the role of historic port cities (Ministry of Maritime Affairs RI, 2017).

The country of India has a maritime culture that is embodied in the Act East Policy, which intensifies the vision to take an important role in the Southeast Asian region, especially Indonesia as the central region of Southeast Asia and a strategic point in achieving its goals in the economic, political, defense and security fields. India is seeking to position itself to engage more actively with countries to its east. It is also influenced by China's assertiveness and strong position on the South China Sea issue, and its naval and diplomatic expansion into the Indian Ocean has become a matter of strategic concern to countries in the region as well as India. (Rajeev,2018). China also issued regulations unilaterally, such as fishing regulations, safeguarding the maritime environment, building two new Chinese district areas on Paracel Island and Spratly Island, mandatory reporting of warships, submarines, chemical carriers, spy ships. , Gas and oil carriers and ships suspected by China's maritime apparatus, besides that China has also seized and claimed sea features that are below sea level from claimant countries in the South China Sea (Achyar, Midhio dan Khaerudin, 2021).

India and Indonesia are geographically close together and have the same vision to maintain regional stability as countries that share the waters of the Indian Ocean. The embodiment of the implementation of India's Act East Policy in maritime security cooperation that existed between India and Indonesia from 2015 to 2018 included: 1) Navy to Navy Cooperation through Coordinated Patrol as part of maritime power cooperation, 2) Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation Agreement, 3) Maritime Infrastructure at Sabang Port.

Based on the conditions of the maritime culture of Indonesia and India, there are several reasons that can be the background for the existence of a cooperative relationship between the two countries, especially in the maritime field.

1. Indonesia and India have a strategic position and are neighbors in the Indian Ocean region. The distance between the waters of India and Indonesia is only 80 nautical miles between Indonesia's westernmost province in Nanggroe Aceh Darussalam and India's southernmost province on Great Nicobar Island. This closeness makes India and Indonesia strategic partners in ensuring security in the maritime area between the two countries so that it is necessary to strengthen cooperation to be able to guarantee the economic growth



of each country and face various problems and challenges in the field of defense and security. (Ministry of External Affairs Government of India, 2018)

2. The shared cultural heritage of Indonesia and India has also facilitated cooperation in the maritime sector. For example, the two nations have collaborated in preserving and promoting traditional seafaring knowledge, such as navigation techniques and boat building. The cooperation in traditional seafaring knowledge has led to the development of joint research programs and training courses, enhancing the skills of maritime communities in both nations.
3. As a country that has a positive relationship with India, India views Indonesia as a strategic partner country that can play an important role in the Look East policy. India and Indonesia share geographical proximity by sharing maritime boundaries and have the goal of establishing progress, prosperity, stability, and territorial integrity. India and Indonesia have a convergence of views about the perceived threat from China's aggressiveness in the South China Sea, in the agreement it can be seen that the two countries unite the vision to uphold freedom, peace and comply with the principles of international law that apply through UNCLOS.
4. Geographically, India and Indonesia are both maritime countries. India is on the strategic route of the Indian Ocean and is a country that occupies a dominant position in the region. On the west, India shares maritime boundaries with Pakistan, the south with Sri Lanka, and the east with Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand, and Indonesia. India's maritime geography is also important as a shipping transit route connecting Asia Pacific and the west coast of the United States (Sakhuja, 2003)
5. India and Indonesia have an advantage in the geographical location of the maritime area. However, Indonesia's position as India's maritime neighbor and its center of gravity advantage makes Indonesia relied on as a strategic partner in providing a platform for India to expand its maritime reach, especially in the Southeast Asia region, the Indian Ocean, the South China Sea as part of entities that appear in the Indo Pacific. (Marjani, 2018)
6. India and Indonesia have determined a position to give firmness to China to maintain peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region. So that through India's Act East Policy, which is in line with Indonesia's Global Maritime Nexus policy, the two countries increase maritime security cooperation and align approaches with regional forums such as the ASEAN Defense Ministers Meeting (ADMM-Plus) which discusses joint security.
7. India and Indonesia share common perceptions of threats in the maritime domain (Government of India: Ministry of External Affairs, 2013). While Indonesia does not explicitly list its perceived threats from state actors, unresolved maritime disputes in the South China Sea, together with China's overt assertions of its claims therein, would figure high on the list of concerns for Indonesia (Gindarsah & Priamarizki, 2015).

### *3.3 Implications of Indonesia-India Maritime Cooperation Based on a Cultural Perspective*

Implications of Indonesia-India Maritime Cooperation on Indonesia's Maritime Security: Indonesia's vast archipelago and extensive maritime borders make it vulnerable to various maritime security threats, such as piracy, illegal fishing, and maritime terrorism. Indonesia-India maritime cooperation has the potential to address these challenges by enhancing maritime security cooperation and promoting a rules-based maritime order.

With the similarity of Indonesian and Indian maritime cultures, maritime culture can certainly be applied to every element contained in Indonesia's foreign policy. As two countries that are adjacent maritimately, it can be said that too much of the security cooperation between India and Indonesia has been neglected. Maritime security cooperation with Indonesia has opened up the strengthening of bilateral maritime security relations between the two countries.

The existence of Indonesia's policy as a Global Maritime Nexus is also an important opportunity for India to increase bilateral interaction through more comprehensive cooperation, assessing that this policy is in line with the Act East Policy in upholding security stability in the region. India then made Indonesia a strategic partner to strengthen maritime security cooperation with the aim of mutually achieving the national interests of each country.

Both India and Indonesia, the two countries share the same vision of ensuring maritime security and the safety of sea lines of communication. The two countries emphasized the importance of freedom of navigation and overflight on the high seas, trade without barriers, and resolving maritime disputes in a peaceful manner in accordance with universally recognized principles of international law.

To become a maritime country, Indonesia does not only need domestic support and action but also from interactions with other countries that have the same interest in maritime progress both bilaterally and multilaterally. One of them is by establishing bilateral cooperation with India, especially in the maritime sector. The existence of cultural similarities between the two countries in developing their maritime potential is the basis for cooperation in the maritime field. Even though the cooperative relationship between Indonesia and India has been established since the century before Christ until now, the cooperation relationship that continues to increase every year is evidence of the interests of the two countries in advancing the conditions of their respective countries.

It can be concluded that this cooperation includes all components in the Global Maritime Nexus (GMN) vision, so that it can be concluded that Indonesia-India maritime cooperation strongly supports Indonesia's vision to become a Global Maritime Nexus (GMN) country. although not all the cooperation can be realized. However, this cooperation has not fully made Indonesia a Global Maritime Nexus (GMN) country. because there are still many efforts that Indonesia must do in improving Indonesia's maritime regulations. Indonesia also needs time and the long term to reach the Global Maritime Nexus (GMN), moreover, there is still much cooperation between Indonesia and India that has not been completed and will continue to run in accordance with the interests of both countries in the maritime sector.

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