



## Strengthening India-Indonesia Ties

**For Prelims:** [Indonesia](#), [Republic Day 2025](#), [Comprehensive Strategic Partnership](#), [Ex Garuda Shakti \(Army\)](#), [Ex Samudra Shakti \(Naval\)](#), [AITIGA](#), [Local Currency Settlement Systems](#), [Biofuels](#), [Traditional Medicine](#), [Digital Public Infrastructure](#), [Quantum Communication](#), [High-Performance Computing](#), [Kashi Cultural Pathway](#), [ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific](#), [NAM](#), [1955 Bandung Conference](#), [‘Look East’ Policy 1991](#), [‘Act East’ 2014 Policy](#), [South China Sea](#), [UNCLOS](#), [BrahMos](#), [Strait of Malacca](#), [Panchashila](#).

**For Mains:** Evolution of India-Indonesia ties, Importance of Indonesia for India.

**Source:** [IE](#)

### Why in News?

The **President of Indonesia** was the Chief Guest at India's **76th Republic Day** celebrations, marking the **75th anniversary of India-Indonesia diplomatic relations**.

- Both countries signed several **MoUs** covering areas such as **health cooperation, digital infrastructure, and defence collaboration**.

### What are the Key Highlights of the India-Indonesia Ties?

- **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership:** Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to elevating the bilateral relationship, which was upgraded to a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2018**.
- **Defence Cooperation:** The leaders committed to strengthening defence ties through initiatives like Coordinated Patrol, **Ex Garuda Shakti (Army)**, and **Ex Samudra Shakti (Naval)**.
  - Both agreed to establish **Bilateral Maritime Dialogue** and **Cyber Security Dialogue**.
- **Trade Cooperation:** Both nations aim to boost bilateral trade, which reached **USD 38.8 billion in 2022-2023**, and agreed to resolve trade barriers and expedite the **AITIGA review**.
  - The MoU on **Local Currency Settlement Systems** aims to boost trade by enabling transactions in local currencies.
- **Energy, and Health Security:** Both nations are focusing on **biofuels** and joint exploration of **critical minerals** like **nickel and bauxite**.
  - MoUs on **Health Cooperation and traditional medicine Quality Assurance** were signed, focusing on digital health and healthcare professional capacity-building.
- **Technological Cooperation:** India offered to share its expertise in **Digital Public Infrastructure**, **Quantum Communication**, and **High-Performance Computing** with Indonesia.
- **Cultural Cooperation:** India aims to assist in restoring the **Prambanan Temple** in Indonesia and reaffirmed the "**Kashi Cultural Pathway**" principles from the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting.
  - The Kashi Cultural Pathway aims to **restore heritage structures** and return cultural artifacts to their countries of origin.
- **Multilateral Cooperation:** Both countries emphasized the importance of **ASEAN centrality** and cooperation on regional issues like the **ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific**, **India-Indonesia-**

**Australia Trilateral and Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), BRICS and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).**

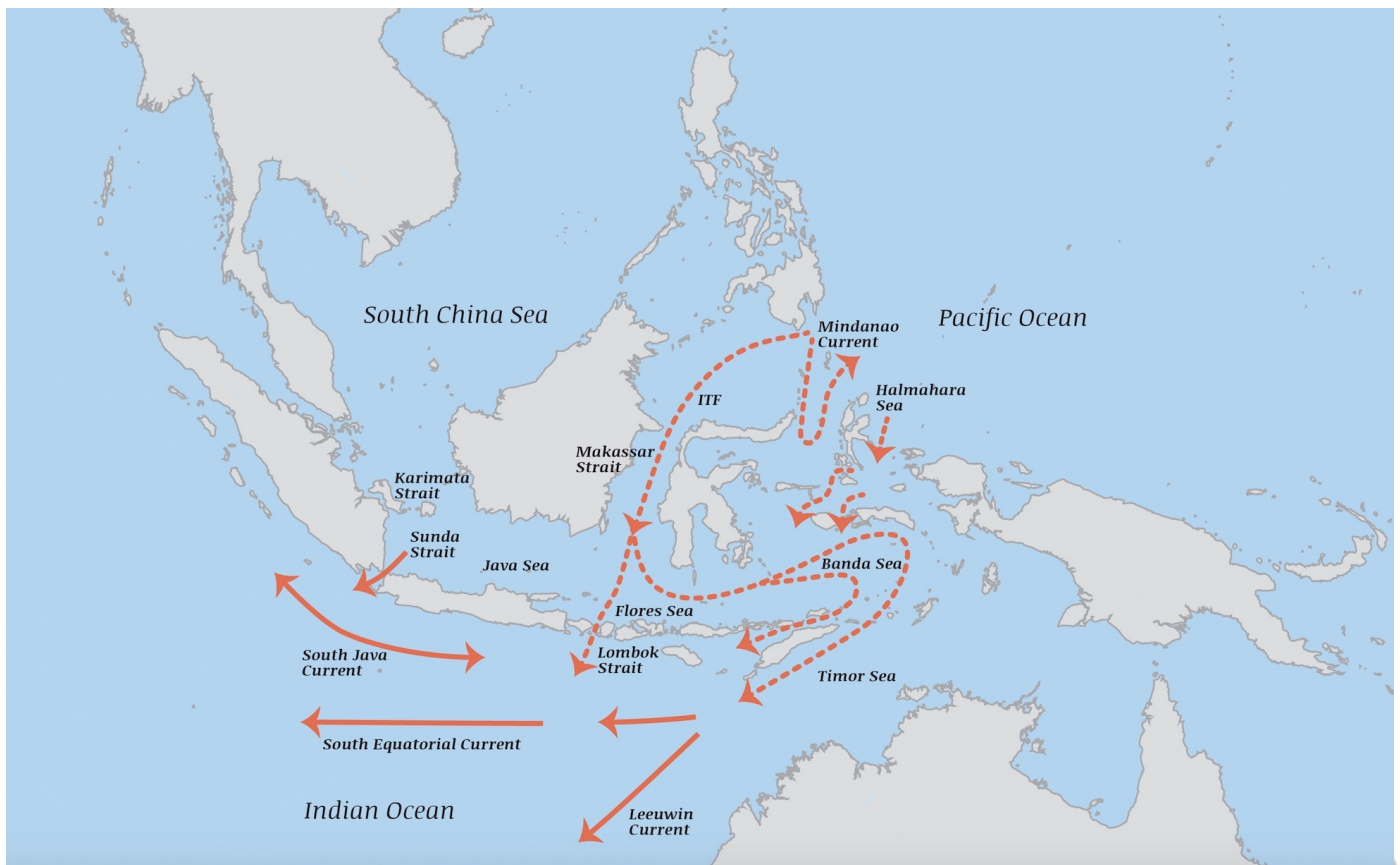
## How India-Indonesia Ties Evolved Overtime?

- **Early Post-Independence Period (1940s-1950s):** India, under Prime Minister [Jawaharlal Nehru](#), strongly supported Indonesia's fight for independence from **Dutch colonial rule**.
  - The two countries signed a **Treaty of Friendship in 1951**, and cooperation in **trade, culture, and military matters** flourished.
  - Both nations aligned on **non-alignment, anti-colonialism, and peaceful coexistence**, leading to their active participation in the **1955 Bandung Conference** and **NAM's formation in 1961**.
- **Deterioration in Ties (1960s):** Relations strained in the **1950s-60s** as India's ties with China worsened post-1959 uprising and **Sino-Indian 1962 war**, while Indonesia stayed **cordial with China**.
  - In the **1960s**, Indonesia **sided with Pakistan during the 1965 India-Pakistan conflict**, showing solidarity and providing military aid.
- **Cold War Era (1966-1980s):** Under **President Suharto**, Indonesia moved away from its previous alignment with China and sought to **rebuild ties with India**.
  - Indonesia and India improved ties with key agreements like the **1977 maritime boundary pact** and Suharto's 1980 visit to India.
- **'Look East' Policy 1991 (1990s):** Under India's **'Look East' policy 1991**, trade grew and both nations evolved a comprehensive partnership covering **economic, security, and cultural cooperation**.
  - India's 2014 **'Act East' 2014 policy** strengthened ties with Southeast Asia, making **Indonesia a key regional partner**.
- **Recent Developments (Since 2000s):** Indonesia is now India's **2nd largest trading partner** in the ASEAN region (1st-Singapore), and trade has grown significantly from **USD 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to USD 38.84 billion in 2022-23**. Indian investments in Indonesia amount to **USD 1.56 billion**.
  - India and Indonesia jointly called for resolving maritime disputes and finalizing the **South China Sea Code of Conduct** as per international law, including **UNCLOS**.
  - Indonesia is negotiating with India to acquire the **BrahMos missile system**, with a broad agreement on pricing, estimated at **USD 450 million**.

## Why is Indonesia Significant to India?

- **Strategic Importance:** Indonesia occupies a **pivotal position** in the Indo-Pacific region, with control over key sea lanes such as the **Strait of Malacca, Sunda, and Lombok**, making it a critical partner in ensuring maritime security and the **free flow of trade in the region**.

//



- **Natural Resources:** Indonesia, rich in resources like **palm oil, tin, rubber, cocoa, coffee, nickel, copper, timber, gold, and coal**, is a key supplier for global markets and offers opportunities for India in **energy, agriculture, and infrastructure**.
- **Defense Cooperation:** The potential **USD 450 million BrahMos missile deal** and growing defense ties highlight economic cooperation between Indonesia and India.
  - Their defense partnership can address emerging challenges like **cyber threats, maritime security, and counter-terrorism**.
- **Politics and Governance:** Indonesia, with the world's largest Muslim population, practices secularism through its **unique Panchashila Constitution**.
  - Indonesia has effectively tackled terrorism through consistent police efforts, avoiding military force. India can learn from this approach, given the shared challenges both countries face.
- **Global Influence:** Indonesia's leadership in **ASEAN** strengthens its cooperation with India, crucial for regional stability and mutual interests.
  - Indonesia, a regional pivot and emerging power in the **Indo-Pacific**, is a valuable partner for India.

## Conclusion

Indonesia plays a vital role in **India's regional strategy**, with strong ties in **trade, defense, and maritime security**. Both countries aim to deepen collaboration through **technological, cultural, and multilateral efforts**, bolstering their **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** and reinforcing stability in the Indo-Pacific.

### **Drishti Mains Question:**

How has India-Indonesia cooperation evolved over time, and what is Indonesia's strategic importance in India's foreign policy today?

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### Prelims

**Q. In which one of the following groups are all the four countries members of G20? (2020)**

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Vietnam
- (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore and South Korea

**Ans: (a)**

**Q. Consider the following countries: (2009)**

1. Brunei Darussalam
2. East Timor
3. Laos

**Which of the above is/are member/members of ASEAN?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 1 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (c)

### Mains

**Q. Indian Diaspora has an important role to play in South East Asian countries' economy and society. Appraise the role of Indian Diaspora in South-East Asia in this context. (2017)**

**Q. Explain the formation of thousands of islands in Indonesian and Philippines archipelagos. (2014)**

---

## Supreme Court of India Foundation Day

### Source: SCI

The **Supreme Court (SC) of India**, established on **26<sup>th</sup> January 1950** under **Article 124**, was inaugurated on **28th January 1950** and began operations from the **old Parliament House**. It moved to its current building in **1958**, inaugurated by **President Dr. Rajendra Prasad**.

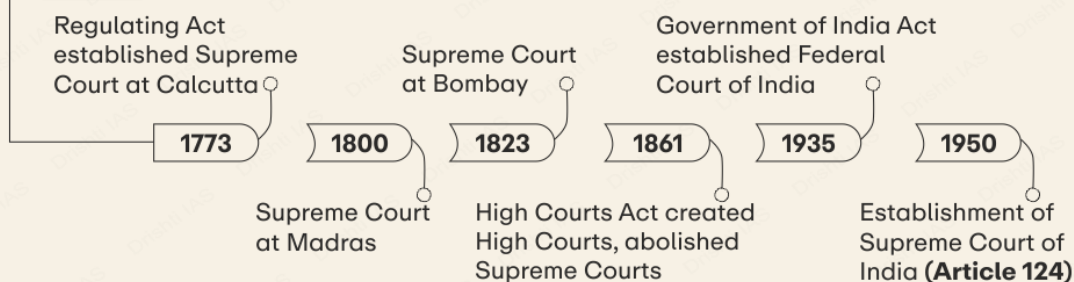
- SC initially envisioned with a **Chief Justice of India (CJI)** and 7 puisne judges, its strength has since expanded to a **CJI and 33 judges** as of 2024, appointed by the **President and retiring at 65**.

- Eligibility includes being an Indian citizen with 5 years as a High Court judge, 10 years as an advocate, or is in the opinion of the President a distinguished jurist.
- In 2024, a **new "Lady Justice" statue** was unveiled at the SC, replacing the original. Dressed in a **saree and without a blindfold, it holds scales and the Indian Constitution**.
  - Unlike the original, based on **Justitia** (Roman goddess) with a **blindfold, scales, and a sword**, the new statue's **open eyes signify that the law is not blind and sees everyone equally**.
  - The Indian Constitution replaces the sword, emphasizing its **supremacy in justice**.
- In 2024, the new flag and insignia of the SC are unveiled to mark its 75th year. The flag features the **Ashok Chakra, the SC building, and the Book of Constitution**, with the insignia inscribed with **"Yato Dharmastato Jayah,"** meaning **"Where there is Dharma, there is victory."**

# SUPREME COURT OF INDIA

*The Supreme Court of India is the apex judicial body under the Constitution of India.*

## HISTORY



## COMPOSITION

- Ⓢ **Strength:** 34 judges including CJI, appointed by the President
- Ⓢ **Eligibility:** Indian Citizen; High Court judge for 5 years/Advocate for 10 years/Distinguished jurist
- Ⓢ **Tenure:** Until age 65 (unless resigns/impeached by President)
- Ⓢ **Salaries:** Determined by Parliament
- Ⓢ **Impeachment:** By President on Parliament's approval with a special majority

## JURISDICTION

*Original, Writ, Appellate and Advisory Jurisdictions:*

- Ⓢ **Original:** Disputes between Government and States (Article 131); Constitutional Remedies (Article 32)
- Ⓢ **Writ:** Powers to issue writs for enforcement of fundamental rights (Article 139)
- Ⓢ **Appeals From HCs:**
  - Ⓢ Constitutional Matters (Article 132)
  - Ⓢ Civil Matters (Article 133)
  - Ⓢ Criminal Matters (Article 134)
  - Ⓢ Special Leave (Article 136; Discretionary Power)
- Ⓢ **Advisory:** Presidential referrals (Article 143)

## OTHER POWERS

*Court of Record, Judicial Review, Constitutional Interpretation etc.*

- Ⓢ **Articles 129:** Powers to punish for **contempt**
- Ⓢ **Article 137:** Supreme Court review of its judgments
- Ⓢ **Article 141:** Supreme Court's decisions are binding on all courts
- Ⓢ **Article 142:** Orders and decrees of the Supreme Court are enforceable
- Ⓢ **Article 147:** SC is the **ultimate interpreter of the Constitution**

## Acting Chief Justice, Ad Hoc Judge, & Retired Judge of SC

- **Acting Chief Justice:** Appointed by the President as needed
- **Ad Hoc Judge:** Appointed temporarily by the CJI for quorum issues
- **Retired Judge:** Chief Justice can reappoint retired judges temporarily



**Drishti IAS**

Read more: [75 Years of Supreme Court](#)

---

## PM YASASVI Scheme

[Source: PIB](#)

The **Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment** addressed student beneficiaries of the [PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India \(PM-YASASVI\) scheme](#) on **Republic Day 2025**.

- **PM-YASASVI Scheme:**
  - **About:** Launched by the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, it provides **financial aid** for quality education to **marginalized students**.
  - **Eligibility:** It is open to [OBC, Economically Backward Classes \(EBC\), and DNT students](#) with family income up to **Rs 2.5 lakh per annum**.
  - **Sub-Schemes:** It is an **umbrella** scheme consisting of sub-schemes like:
    - **Pre-Matric Scholarship: Rs. 4,000** annual academic allowance to families with income below Rs. 2.5 lakh.
    - **Post-Matric Scholarship: Rs. 5,000 to Rs. 20,000** depending on the course category.
    - **College Education:** Top college students get **full financial support**, including tuition, living expenses, and education materials.
    - **Hostels: Accommodation facility** near government schools and institutions.
- **Other Similar Schemes:** [National Scholarships for Disabled Students](#), [INSPIRE Scholarship](#), [Maulana Azad National Fellowship](#).





MINISTRY OF  
SOCIAL JUSTICE &  
EMPOWERMENT  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



## PM Young Achievers Scholarship Award Scheme for Vibrant India for OBCs & Others

### PM-YASASVI

- **PM-YASASVI** is an umbrella scheme designed for OBC, EBC and DNT students by combining the existing scholarship schemes and hostel scheme.
- The initiative aims to provide **economically weaker families'** children financial support so they can receive a **high-quality education**.



@msjgoi



@goimsje



@msjgoi



socialjustice.gov.in

Read More: [Scholarship Schemes in India](#)

## Essential Religious Practice


Source: IE

- The Bombay High Court ruled that using **loudspeakers** is **not an essential religious practice** protected under [Article 25](#) or [Article 19\(1\)\(a\)](#) of the Constitution.
- **Essential Religious Practice (ERP):** [ERP](#) refers to **practices integral to a religion's doctrine**, protected under [Article 25](#). The judiciary determines ERP based on religious tenets.
  - **Santhara (Sallekhana):** In 2015, the Rajasthan High Court ruled **Santhara as non-essential to religion**, but the Supreme Court stayed the order, allowing the practice to continue.
  - **Triple Talaq Case:** The **SC invalidated [instant triple talaq](#)**, ruling it was **not an essential Islamic practice** and violated women's rights.

- **HC Ruling Related to Loudspeaker:** Bombay HC in *Dr Mahesh Vijay Bedekar v Maharashtra case, 2016*, ruled for **strict enforcement of noise pollution rules**.
  - It clarified that **loudspeakers are not essential to religion** and banned their use from **10 pm to 6 am** and in silence zones, with exceptions for specific cultural or religious events (15 days/year).
- **Noise is considered as an "air pollutant"** and regulated under the [Air \(Prevention and Control of Pollution\) Act, 1981](#).
  - It mandates a maximum noise level of **55 decibels** in residential areas during the **day** and **45 decibels at night**.

## THE LOUDEST ALLOWED

Under The Noise Pollution (Regulation and Control) Rules, 2000

<b>INDUSTRIAL AREAS:</b> 75 dB (A) leq during daytime; 70 at night		■ <b>Silence Zones</b> are defined as areas comprising up to 100 m around hospitals, educational institutions, courts, religious places, or any other area which is declared as such by the competent authority.
<b>COMMERCIAL AREAS:</b> 65 dB during daytime, 55 at night		■ <b>Sound levels</b> are measured in dB (A) leq, which is the time-weighted average of the level of sound in decibels on scale A, which is relatable to human hearing.
<b>RESIDENTIAL AREAS:</b> 55 dB during daytime, 45 at night		
<b>SILENCE ZONES:</b> 50 dB during daytime, 40 dB at night		

**DAYTIME IS DEFINED AS 6 am to 10 pm; NIGHTTIME IS 10 pm to 6 am.**

Read More: [Supreme Court on Religious Practices](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/current-affairs-news-analysis-editorials/news-analysis/28-01-2025/print>