

# INDIA - SINGAPORE 50 STRATEGIC PARTNERS



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Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi  
and 50 Years of India-Singapore Relations

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# Message from High Commissioner of India to Singapore



## Vijay Thakur Singh

I am happy that this publication is being brought out on the occasion of 50 years of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.

Over the past five decades, India and Singapore have built comprehensive and robust ties across a wide range of fields – political, economic, defence, S&T, space, education and culture. The two countries held several commemorative events to mark the 50th milestone of their extra-ordinary relationship, which is based on the firm foundations of shared commitments and values, goodwill and understanding.

The visit of the President of Singapore, HE Mr. Tony Tan Keng Yam, to India in February 2015 and the visit by Prime Minister of India, HE Mr Narendra Modi, to Singapore in November 2015 affirmed the significance attached by the political leadership of both countries in furthering ties. Prime Minister Modi had earlier come to Singapore in March 2015 to participate in the State funeral of Singapore's Founding Father and former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew, whom Prime Minister Modi describes as, "one of the tallest leaders of his time and the Architect of Singapore".

This publication also focuses in-depth on the highly successful and productive visit of Prime Minister Modi to Singapore from 23-24 November 2015. During the

visit, the bilateral relationship was elevated to a Strategic Partnership with Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister HE Mr Lee Hsien Loong signing a Joint Declaration. This Declaration was an announcement of deepened ties in areas of mutual interest and of a partnership that addresses the challenges of the 21st century. The ten bilateral documents concluded during the visit signalled the intensity of engagements between the two countries.

Singapore's phenomenal success in the last 50 years as an independent nation has been applauded widely. It is a country with proven strength in urban eco-systems, financial services and logistics. India is a land of boundless opportunities and, as it grows and progresses, there would be many possibilities of bilateral cooperation and collaboration. We look forward to Singapore being a major partner in many areas of activity in India's transformation. This will further boost India-Singapore economic interactions.

Singapore plays a leading role in the region. For India, Singapore has been a spring-board to the ASEAN and Singapore will remain our essential ally in the implementation of our Look and Act East policy. 2015 has been an important year in the ASEAN-India relationship with India establishing an independent Mission to ASEAN in Jakarta; the ASEAN-India Free Trade Area being completed and with fresh direction and momentum being imparted by our Leaders at the 13th ASEAN-India Summit in November 2015. We seek to work together with Singapore, one of our foremost partners, for enduring peace and prosperity in the region and to realise our vision of an Asian century.

The construction of India - Singapore future bonds will be greatly facilitated by old historical and cultural ties between our peoples. The Indian community's enormous contribution to Singapore's story has been often acknowledged with appreciation. The Indian Heritage Centre in Little India, Singapore, chronicles these historical memories even as new chapters of friendship and collaboration continue to be scripted.

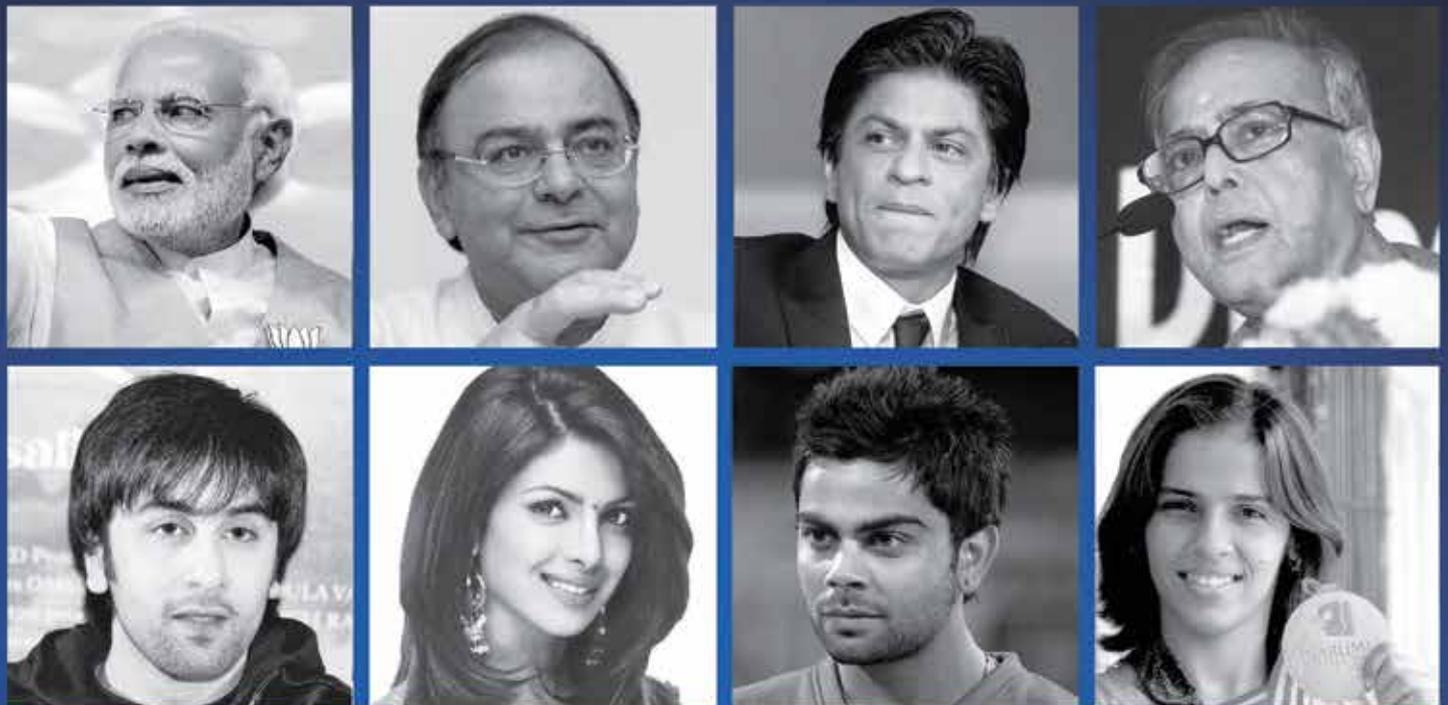
I would like to thank Sun Media for bringing out this publication.

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# WHEN IT COMES TO THE INDIAN PERSPECTIVE, IT MATTERS WHO IT'S FROM.



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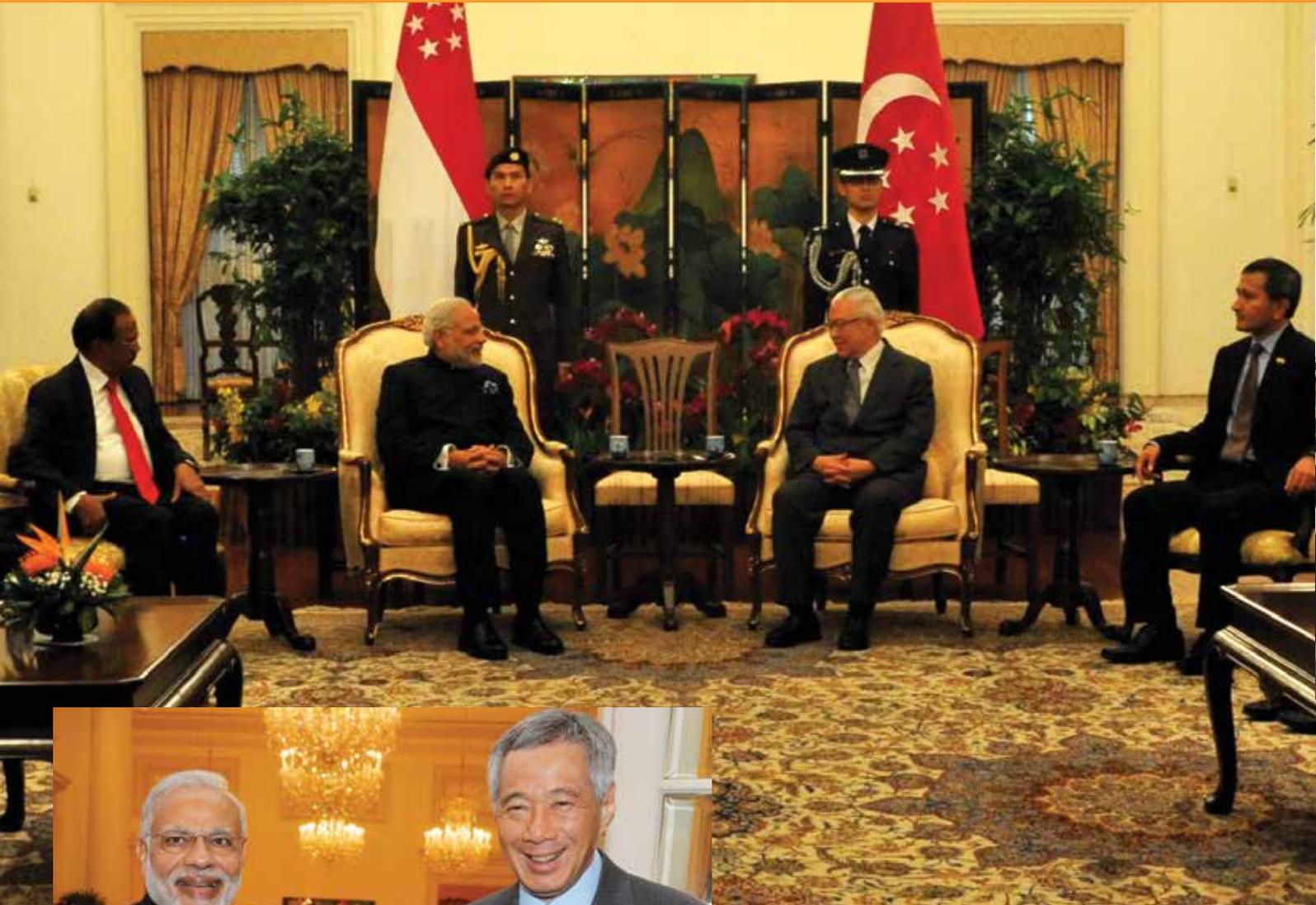
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# India and Singapore 50 STRATEGIC PARTNERS



*Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi meeting President of Singapore, HE Tony Tan Keng Yam (above), and Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong (left) at the Istana on 24 November 2015*





Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi's address at the 37th Singapore Lecture at Shangri-La Hotel on 23 November 2015. (Top): The audience included Singapore's Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong

Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi articulated his vision of the 'Act East Policy' to policy-makers, think-tanks, academics and the diplomatic community at the prestigious **Singapore Lecture**.

"Singapore is a nation that has become a metaphor for the reality of dreams", noted Prime Minister Modi as he delivered the 37th Singapore Lecture on the topic - 'India's Singapore Story'. The event was organised by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (ISEAS)-Yusof Ishak Institute.

[See full text on page 28 to 31]

: *"Singapore teaches us many things.  
 : The size of a nation is no barrier to  
 : the scale of its achievements. And  
 : the lack of resources is no constraint  
 : for inspiration, imagination, and  
 : innovation. When a Nation embraces  
 : diversity, it can unite behind a  
 : common purpose. And international  
 : leadership flows from the power of  
 : thought, not just from the orthodox  
 : measures of strength."*

# 37th Singapore Lecture 2015 “India’s Singapore Story”

Shangri-La Hotel, 23rd November 2015



*“Singapore is our 10th largest trade partner globally and 2nd largest in ASEAN. Bilateral trade has expanded manifold after the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005. Singapore has emerged as the 2nd largest source of FDI into India. Outward Indian FDI to Singapore has also increased. Singapore is now one of the top destinations for Indian investments.”*

– Extracts from PM HE Narendra Modi’s Singapore Lecture



## **Supper at Komala Vilas**

Following the delivery of the PM Modi’s Singapore Lecture, Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong and Madam Ho Ching hosted PM Modi to a quiet vegetarian meal at the Komala Vilas Restaurant in Little India where they shared a meal of vadaï, idli and ever popular dosai.



(Top): Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi and Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong at the agreement-signing ceremony. (Above left & right): Both Prime Ministers signed the Joint Declaration and witnessed the agreement-signing ceremony at the Istana

The visit served as an occasion to elevate the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership that was sealed by signing the **Strategic Partnership Declaration** – an announcement of deepened ties in areas such as skills development and economic and cultural cooperation. As many as 10 bilateral documents were signed signalling the intensity of engagement between the two long-standing Asian partners.

Prime Minister Modi also held wide-

ranging talks with President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Both the Prime Ministers decided to sustain the momentum of bilateral relations through regular high-level visits and recalled the five focal areas of cooperation – the 5-S plank - Scaling Up Trade And Investments; Speeding up Connectivity; Smart Cities; Skills Development & Capacity-Building; and State Focus to Strengthen Business & Cultural Links, agreed to by both countries

# Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership, Meeting Leaders & Launch of Stamps

The Istana, 24th November 2015



Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi meeting the President of Singapore HE Tony Tan Keng Yam (above left) and Emeritus Senior Minister HE Goh Chok Tong (above right)

in August 2014. They pledged to work towards enhanced cooperation in these areas through specific programmes and projects. They also agreed to continue to work closely together with other ASEAN Member States to strengthen ASEAN centrality, enhance connectivity, and support the ASEAN Community-building process. Singapore also reaffirmed its continued support for India as a permanent member in a reformed United Nations Security Council.



## Commemorative Stamps on Rashtrapati Bhavan and Istana

India has stood with Singapore at all the crossroads of time. India was also the second nation to recognise an independent Singapore. Commemorating this relationship and its establishment of diplomatic ties, the two Premiers jointly released the commemorative stamp depicting the Presidential residences of India and Singapore on 24 November, 2015, at the Istana.



(Top): Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi addressing the audience at the Singapore-India Economic Convention. (Above row) Prime Minister Modi at the 'Global Conversation' - an interaction with corporate Singapore at the Singapore-India Economic Convention

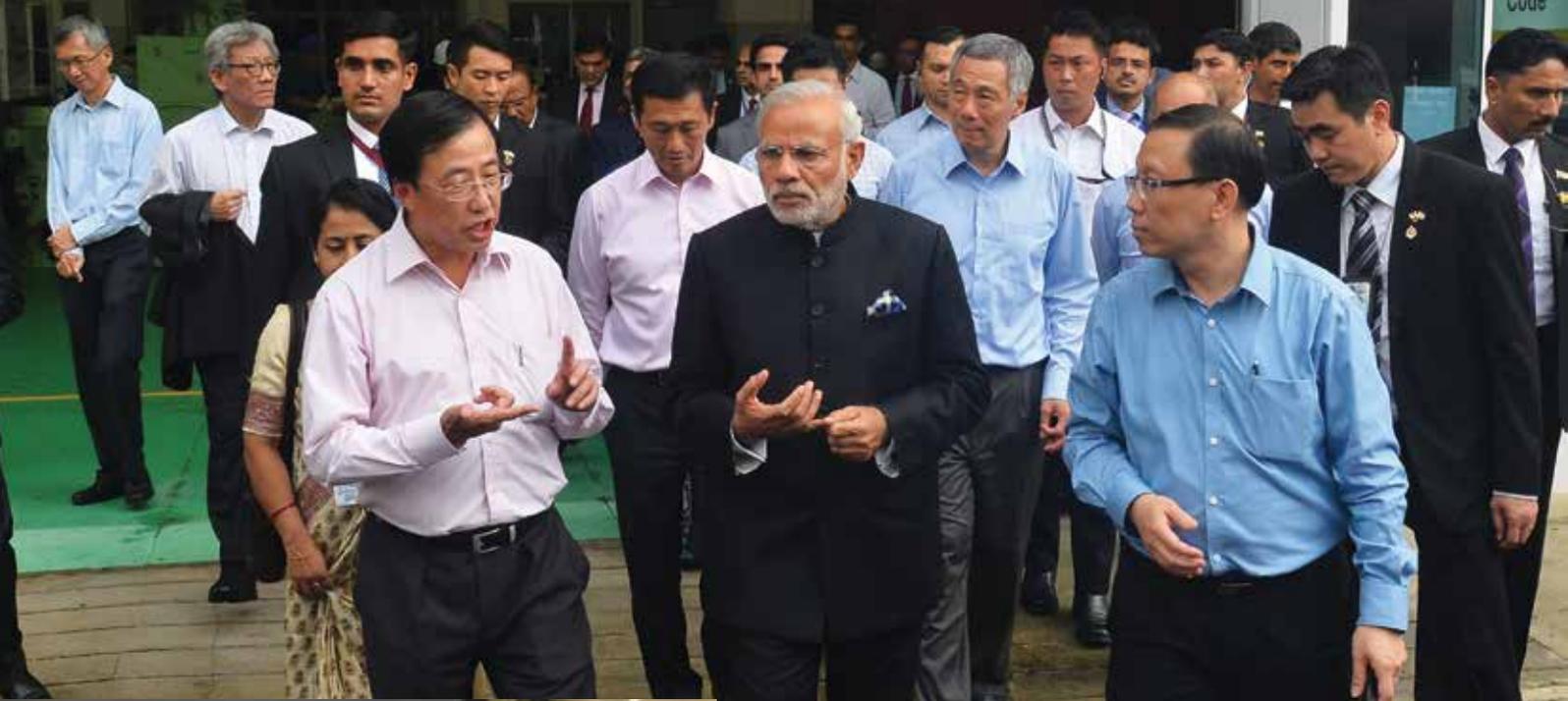
Prime Minister Modi interacted with corporate Singapore at the **Singapore-India Economic Convention** and invited the gathering of prominent investors to 'Make in India.'

He delivered a Special Address at the Singapore-India Economic Convention, organised by the Ministry of Trade and Industry, International Enterprise Singapore and High Commission of India. Urging boldness and vision in the India and Singapore economic story, Prime Minister Modi spells out his strategy of Energising

the economy, Empowering the people, Funding the unfunded, Securing the poor and Enhancing income level of all. Some of the points Prime Minister highlighted included how India is expediting regulatory clearances, including security and environmental clearance as well as greatly liberalising its licensing regime.

[See full text on page 32 to 35]





*(Top & above left): Prime Minister visiting the ITE College Central at Ang Mo Kio. (Above right): Rousing reception - ITE students' drum performance welcome for Prime Minister Modi. (Far left): Both PMs 'hands-on' experience at ITE*

Prime Minister Modi visited the **Institute of Technical Education, College Central**, where he was briefed about skills development and latest technological innovations. He was received by Prime Minister Lee. The leaders were greeted enthusiastically by the students. Both proceeded to visit the Maritime Training Centre, Aerospace Hub and Precision Engineering section.

The two leaders, guided by students, inserted a metallic piece each into a CNC machine to create bookends, which featured prominent symbols of India and Singapore. Both leaders signed the bookends for posterity.





*(Top): Enthusiastic reception by students at the INA Memorial Marker in Singapore. (Above left): The Prime Minister met INA veterans and family members. (Above right): Prime Minister Modi remembering the valiant heroes of India's independence struggle*

# Homage to Indian National Army Memorial Marker

INA Monument Esplanade Park, 24th November 2015



(Above left & right): Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi met and interacted with the families of INA veterans

Prime Minister Modi paid homage at the **Indian National Army Memorial Marker** in Singapore. Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose had laid the foundation stone for the memorial dedicated to the “Unknown Warrior” of the Indian National Army (INA) in July 1945. The marker sits on the site of the original memorial.

*(Prime Minister) Modi became the first Indian Prime Minister to visit the INA Memorial Marker at Esplanade Park on Connaught Drive.*

*- Business Standard (India's leading business daily)*



# Indian Diaspora Cheer for PM Modi

Singapore Expo, 24th November 2015



(Top & left, opposite page): Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi at the Indian Community Reception Event. (Above): Part of the 20,000-strong crowd who came to listen to the Prime Minister

Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi received a rousing welcome from the Indian community in Singapore at the **Indian Community Reception** programme on the evening of 24th November. He concluded his speech by inviting the Indian Community to be a part of India's developmental journey.

“Today the world looks towards India with great faith. You have played a great role in this.”

- PM Modi to the Indian diaspora audience at the Singapore Expo Hall on 24 November 2015



(Top): Prime Minister Modi presented Prime Minister Lee with a reproduction (from the cartographic collection of the National Archives of India, New Delhi) of a map of the island of Singapore dating back to 1849 . (Above left): Prime Minister Lee presented Prime Minister Modi with a copy of the front page of Tamil Murasu of 11 August 1965. The newspaper reported that India had recognised Singapore as an independent country, one of the first to do so. (Above right): Prime Minister being seen off on his departure for New Delhi from Singapore, after his visit to Singapore on 24 November 2015, accompanied by (2nd from right) High Commissioner Vijay Thakur Singh and (far right) Mr Ong Ye Kung, Singapore's Acting Minister for Education and Senior Minister of State for the Ministry of Defence.



# PM Modi Attends Singapore's Founding Father's Funeral

India also observed a day of national mourning with its flag flown at half-mast as a mark of respect for the late Mr Lee Kuan Yew

**P**rime Minister HE Narendra Modi attended the funeral of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, the founding father of modern Singapore, on 29th March 2015. In a tribute to Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew, India observed a day of national mourning on 29th March 2015, with its flag flown at half-mast nationwide.

## Remarks to the Press

"Friends, I am visiting Singapore at a sad moment. The passing away of HE Mr. Lee Kuan Yew marks the end of an era. He was among the tallest leaders of our times. Singapore's transformation in one generation is a tribute to his leadership. In the 50th anniversary year of Singapore's independence, I am sure that he left satisfied with Singapore's achievements and confident about its future.

He inspired not just Southeast Asia, but all of Asia, to believe in its own destiny. He was a global thinker, who saw things ahead of others. He was an advocate of economic progress, but also made tireless efforts to advance peace and stability in our region.



*(Left): President of Singapore, Mr Tony Tan Keng Yam, with the Prime Minister, HE Narendra Modi, in Singapore on 29 March 2015*

*(Above): Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi writes in the condolence book in Singapore*



In India, we deeply valued his friendship and his support for India's economic progress and global role. He believed in India's potential more than many of us did. India's economy is growing rapidly. India's relation with Singapore is one of our strongest relationships in the world. India's integration with Southeast Asia and beyond is growing. Singapore is a key pillar of India's Act East Policy. So, his vision is coming true. The seeds he sowed are bearing fruits today.

Personally, he was a source of inspiration for me. His achievements and thoughts give me confidence in the possibility of India's own transformation. The people of India share this nation's grief over the loss of its founding father and leader."

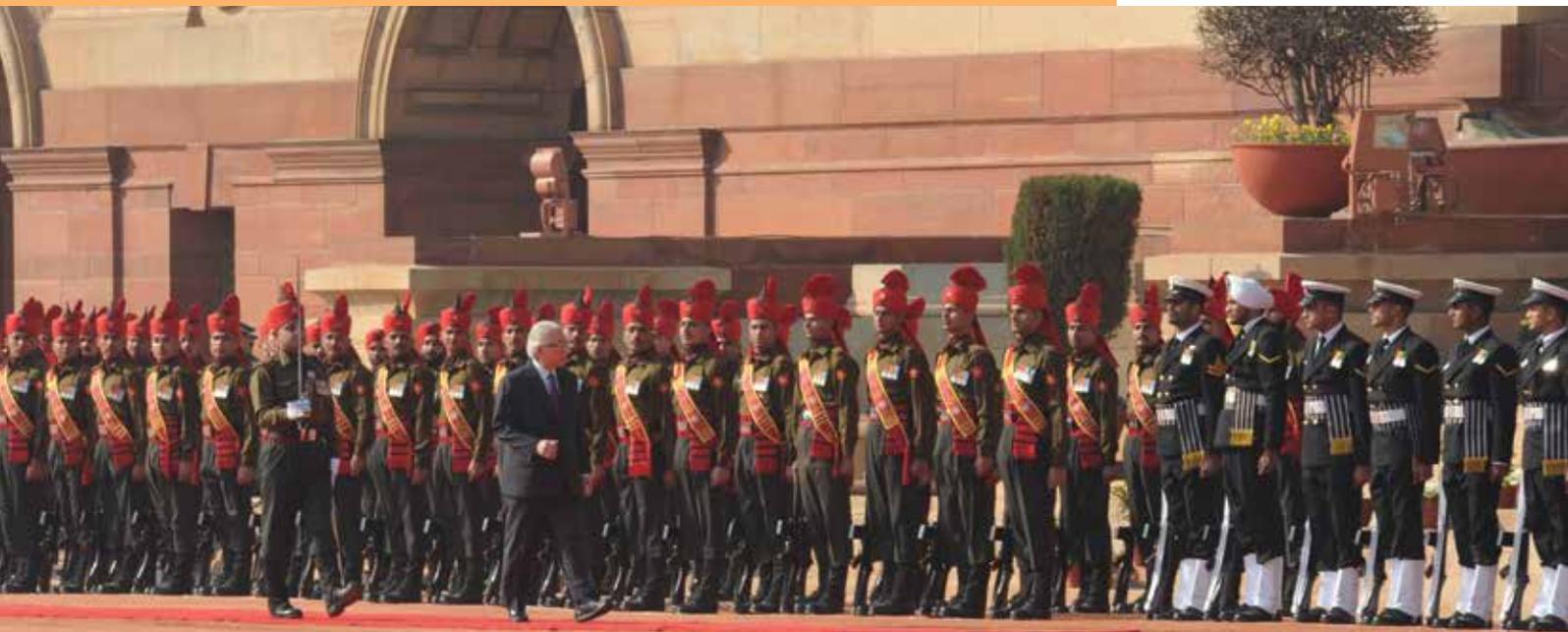
We are observing a day of public mourning in India today in honour of the departed leader and the deep bonds of friendship that we share with Singapore. I bring here today the condolences and prayers of the people of India."

*"The passing of Lee Kuan Yew, is not the passing of an individual, but indeed, of an era. He was a torchbearer of hope, not just for Singapore, but for all of Asia. Today, the flame is no more, but this was a torch that lit the lamp of hope in many new nations. As long as these lamps flicker, he will continue to inspire, eternally. His personal life was an inspiration for many like me. I bow to this committed Karma Yogi, this great man. On behalf of all Indians, I pay homage to him."*

**- PM Modi's Condolence Message**

# State Visit of the President of Singapore to India

State Visit in February 2015 as part of the celebrations on the 50th anniversary of diplomatic ties between India and Singapore



President of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam, inspecting the Guard of Honour, at the ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

**T**he President of the Republic of Singapore HE Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam paid a State Visit to India that highlighted the celebrations on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore.

President Tony Tan, accompanied by Mrs Mary Tan, was in India from 8 to 11 February, 2015, at the invitation of President Pranab Mukherjee. His delegation included Ms Grace Fu, Minister in the Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Communications and Information, along with Parliamentarians and senior officials.

The India-Singapore relationship, based on convergence of views and values and Singapore's role as India's gateway to ASEAN, is robust and expanding. It encompasses strong political understanding, close defence and security cooperation, growing complementarities in economic engagement, civilisational and cultural linkages and shared interests in bilateral and multilateral fora. HE President Tan was accorded a Ceremonial Welcome at Rashtrapati Bhavan following which he laid a wreath at the Raj Ghat memorial to Gandhi.

## Focus Areas

HE President Tan met Prime Minister HE Narendra

Modi. Also, External Affairs Minister Smt. Sushma Swaraj called on him. They had wide-ranging discussions on enhancement of bilateral relations and strengthening of cooperation on regional and international issues to raise the partnership to a higher level. The discussions covered new focus areas that will directly feed into India's development process. These included specific initiatives to develop Smart cities and urban rejuvenation, promote Skill development, measures to Speed up connectivity and coastal and port development, strengthening linkages with the North-East of India, projects to Scale up investments in the new development initiatives launched in India and enhancing exchanges with the States of India. They agreed on sharing of experiences in science & technology, space and other areas, to enhance productivity and efficiency, as well as broadening cooperation in fighting terrorism. The discussions reflected the spirit of mutual trust, understanding and cooperation that characterises the unique and special relations between the two countries.

HE President Tan also inaugurated the Singapore Festival in India, launched the commemorative book titled "Singapore and India: Towards A Shared Future", opened the Peranakan Exhibition at National Museum and hosted a Food Festival themed "Flavours Of Singapore".

The State Visit of the President of Singapore reinforced traditional close exchanges and further enhanced the excellent bilateral relations between the two countries.



(Top): President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan paying homage at the Samadhi of Mahatma Gandhi, at Raj Ghat, in Delhi. The Minister of State for Road Transport & Highways and Shipping, Shri P. Radhakrishnan, and other dignitaries are also seen. (Above): President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan being welcomed by the President, HE Shri Pranab Mukherjee, and the Prime Minister, HE Narendra Modi, on his arrival at the Ceremonial Reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

# Pictorial Highlights of the State Visit by the President of Singapore to India





*(First row from left):  
President Pranab Mukherjee hosts banquet in honour of the President of the Republic of Singapore, Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 9 February 2015*

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam at Hyderabad House in New Delhi on 9 February 2015*

*(Second row from left):  
President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and Mrs Mary Tan visiting after inaugurating the exhibition "The Peranakan World - Cross Cultural Art from Singapore and the Malacca Straits" in New Delhi on 10 February 2015*

*President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam and the Union Minister for Railways, Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu, at the launch of the book "Singapore-India: Towards A Shared Future" to commemorate 50 Years of Singapore-India Relations, in New Delhi on 10 February 2015*



*"The hallmark of our close ties remains our people-to-people links, rooted in centuries of contact. Today, this is reinforced by the many visits and open conversations exchanged by our leaders, and the kinship that our peoples share through the Indian diaspora and tourism."*

**- President Tony Tan in his toast speech at the Indian State Banquet on 9 February 2015**

# 37th SINGAPORE LECTURE

## India's Singapore Story

Address by Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi on 23 November 2015 at the Shangri-La Hotel Singapore



In the life of humans and nations, milestones of time are natural. But, few countries can celebrate the first fifty years of existence with a sense of pride and satisfaction that Singapore deserves to. And, I can do no better than to begin with homage to one of the tallest leaders of our time and the architect of modern Singapore – Lee Kuan Yew.

To capture his mission in own words, he gave his life to see a successful Singapore. And, it was with his well known steely determination that he saw Singapore through to its golden jubilee year.

His impact was global. And, in him, India had a well-wisher, who spoke with the honesty of true friendship. He believed in India's potential at home and her role abroad more than many in India. For me, he was a personal inspiration. From his Singapore Stories, I drew many lessons.

**T**hank you for the honour and privilege of delivering the Singapore Lecture. I am conscious that I walk in the footsteps of leaders who have shaped modern India and our relationship with this region – President Shri APJ Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Shri P.V. Narsimha Rao, and former Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

Mr. Prime Minister, I am deeply honoured that you have joined us here. We have been on the road together in the past few weeks – for the G20 and the ASEAN and East Asia Summits. This tells you how deeply linked the destinies of our two nations are.

To the people of Singapore, on 50 years of Independence, I extend the greetings and the good wishes of 1.25 billion friends and admirers.

The most profound, yet simple, idea was that transformation of a nation begins with a change in the way we are. And, that it was as important to keep your city and surroundings clean as it was to build modern infrastructure. For me, too, in India, the Swachh Bharat campaign is not just a programme to clean our environment, but to transform the way we think, live and work.

For quality, efficiency, and productivity are not just technical measures, but also a state of mind and a way of life. So, in my visit to Singapore this March and in the observance of a day's mourning in India, we wanted to honour a true friend and a very special relationship.

Singapore is a Nation that has become a metaphor for the reality of dreams. Singapore teaches us many things.

The size of a Nation is no barrier to the scale of its achievements. And, the lack of resources is no constraint for inspiration, imagination, and innovation.

When a Nation embraces diversity, it can unite behind a common purpose. And, international leadership flows from the power of thought, not just from the orthodox measures of strength.

Singapore has done more than just lift a nation into the highest levels of prosperity within a generation. It has inspired this region's progress and led in its integration. And, it has made others believe that the possibility of progress is within our horizons, not an unseen and distant hope.

Singapore's success flows not from the aggregate of numbers and the size of investments. It is based on what I believe is the key to success: the quality of human resources, the belief of a people and the resolve of a Nation.

Distinguished members of the audience, It is with the same vision that we are pursuing the transformation of India. People are the purpose of our efforts; and, they will be the power behind change. I do not judge the success of our efforts from the cold statistics of number, but from the warm glow of smile on human faces.

So, one set of our policies are to empower our people. The other set to create the conditions in which enterprise flourishes, opportunities expand and the potential of our citizens are unlocked. So, we are investing in our people through skills and education; special focus on the girl child; financial inclusion; sustainable habitats; clean rivers and smart cities; and, access to basic needs of all our citizens – from water and sanitation to power and housing.

We will nurture and defend an environment in which every citizen belongs and participates, secure of her rights and confident about her opportunities. And, we are creating opportunities by reforming our laws, regulations, policies, processes and institutions;

by the way we govern ourselves; and the way we work with state governments.

Together with this software of change, we are also building the hardware of progress – next-generation infrastructure, revived manufacturing, improved agriculture, easier trade and smarter services. That is why we are moving on many fronts at the same time, aware of the linkages that make up a comprehensive strategy.

I learnt long ago that Singaporeans are too well informed about India to be burdened with numbers by a visitor, even from India. In any case, for me, the emergence of India as the fastest-growing major economy in the world is less important than what is more enduring: the wheels of change are moving; confidence is growing; resolve is stronger; and, the direction is clearer.

And, it is spreading across the nation, as the most distant village and the farthest citizen begin to join the mainstream of national economy.

Distinguished guests, India and Singapore have been together at many crossroads of time. Our relationship is written in the pages of history, the footprints of culture, the ties of kinship and the old connection of commerce. We stood together in friendship at the dawn of freedom; and, we reached out to each other in a partnership of shared hopes.

Singapore's success became an aspiration of Indians. And, in turn, India became the hope for a more peaceful, balanced and stable world.

As India opened itself, Singapore became India's springboard to the world and gateway to the East. No one worked harder for it and no one deserves more credit for it than Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. He re-connected India to Singapore and the region. He also opened my eyes to its vast prospects.

Today, Singapore is one of our most important partners in the world. It is a relationship that is as strategic as it is wide-ranging. We have comprehensive defence



and security relations. It flows out of shared interests and a common vision. Singapore holds regular exercises with and in India.

Singapore is the biggest investment source and destination for India in the world; the world's most connected nation to India; the largest trading partner in South East Asia; and, a popular destination for tourists and students.

Now, as we build the India of our dreams, Singapore is already a major partner in that enterprise: world-class human resources, smart cities, clean rivers, clean energy, or next-generation sustainable infrastructure.

Starting from the first IT Park in Bengaluru, it now includes the newest state capital in India, Amravati in Andhra Pradesh. Our partnership will expand as our economies grow and the framework of trade and investment improves further.

But, I have always seen Singapore in loftier terms.

Singapore's success in overcoming odds leads me to seek a partnership that addresses the challenges of the 21st century – from food and water to clean energy and sustainable habitats. And, in many ways, Singapore will also influence the course of our region in this century.

Mr. Prime Minister, distinguished members, this area covers the arc of the Asia-Pacific and Indian Ocean regions. However we choose to define it, the underlining theme of connected histories and interconnected destinies stands out clearly.

This is a region of expanding freedom and prosperity. It is home to two of the most populous nations; some of the world's largest economies; and, the world's most talented and hard-working people.

Asia's re-emergence is the greatest phenomenon of our era. From the darkness of the middle of the last century, Japan led Asia's rise. It then extended to Southeast Asia, Korea and China. And, India is now the bright hope for sustaining Asian dynamism and prosperity.

But, this is also a region with many unsettled questions and unresolved disputes; of competing claims and contested norms; of expanding military power and extending shadow of terrorism; and, uncertainties on seas and vulnerability in cyber space.

The region is not an island in a vast ocean, but deeply connected and influenced by the world beyond. We are also a region of disparities within and between states; where the challenges of habitats, food and water remain; where our gifts of Nature and wealth of traditions feel the pressure of rapid progress; and, our agriculture and islands are threatened by climate change.

Asia has seen some of this at different points of its history. But, it has probably never been here before. And, Asia is still finding a path through its multiple transitions to a peaceful, stable and prosperous future. It is a journey that must succeed. And, Singapore and India must work together to realize it. India's history has been inseparable from Asia's.

There were times when we turned inwards. And now, as we reintegrate more closely with Asia, we are returning to history. We are retracing our ancient maritime and land routes with the natural instincts of an ancient relationship. And, in the course of the last eighteen months, my government has engaged more with this region than any other in the world. From a new opening with Pacific Island Nations, Australia and Mongolia, to more intense engagement with China, Japan, Korea and ASEAN members, we have pursued our vision with purpose and vigour.

India and China share a boundary and five millennia of continuous engagement. Monks and merchants have nurtured our ties and enriched our societies.

It's a history reflected in the seventh-century journey of XuanZang with which I have had the privilege of connecting, from my birthplace in Gujarat to Xian in China, where President Xi hosted me this May.

We see it in religious texts written in Sanskrit, Pali, and Chinese; in the letters of the past, exchanged with warmth and grace; in India's famous tanchoi sarees; and, in Cinapatta, the Sanskrit name for silk.

Today, we constitute two-fifths of humanity and two of the world's fastest-growing major economies. China's economic transformation is an inspiration for us. And, as it rebalances its economy, and as India steps up the pace of its growth, we can both reinforce each other's progress. And, we can advance stability and prosperity in our region.





# INDIA SINGAPORE ECONOMIC CONVENTION

Special Address by Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi on 24 November 2015  
at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre

It is a matter of great pleasure to be here with you. I am really happy to address the India-Singapore Economic Convention. My visit has been very productive and positive. I had excellent meetings with Singapore leaders today morning. We have concluded the Strategic Partnership which takes the relationship to a new level of engagement. We have set a high level of ambition for this relationship.

Friends! Our historical ties and cultural proximity are our assets. A large Indian Diaspora is enriching the life and work environment of Singapore. In recent years, economic engagement has been a key driver of our relationship. Singapore is our 10th largest trade partner globally. It is also the 2nd largest in ASEAN. Bilateral trade has expanded manifold after the conclusion of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement in 2005. Singapore has emerged as the 2nd largest source of FDI into India. Outward Indian FDI to Singapore has also increased in recent times. Singapore is now one of the top destinations for Indian investments.

A significantly large number of Indian companies are registered in Singapore. Singapore companies also have a level of familiarity with the Indian market due to involvement over the past few decades. Our companies are positioned to explore and develop promising engagements. With the significant and growing number of companies of both sides and of foreign companies in both markets, I expect even more exciting partnerships.

- You have the habit of precision; India has the scope for expansion
- You are fond of going vertical; India's development is both vertical and horizontal
- You are an exciting incubator; India is a vast laboratory

Thus, Singapore and India can work together in many promising areas.

Last month, I had the opportunity of laying the foundation of two projects in India with participation of Singapore. One is the new capital city of Andhra Pradesh–Amaravati. Singapore is involved in preparation of the Master Plan for this new city. Secondly, I have laid the foundation stone for the fourth container

terminal at JNPT, Mumbai, which is being built in partnership with PSA, Singapore. We are also exploring collaboration with Changi Airport to operate two Indian airports. These are recent examples of the deepening of our economic partnership.

Singapore is also an important and valuable friend of India in our global outlook. We regard Singapore as an essential ally in the implementation of our Look and Act East Policy. I am fully aware of the important role Singapore has played in the implementation of this policy. I look forward to working with Singapore in a bigger way.

Beyond the bilateral scope, there are also significant opportunities through collaboration with third countries. One example is the ASEAN Economic Community which has come into effect. It is going to create a 2 trillion US Dollar market of 600 million people. It will further enable our businesses to jointly explore opportunities in the wider South East Asian region.

The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), comprising ASEAN and its six Dialogue Part-





ners, is another potential opportunity for our companies. Recently, in the India-Africa Forum Summit held in New Delhi, Singapore was a special invitee. This is recognition of another dimension of India-Singapore togetherness. We can work jointly in the African countries.

Ladies and Gentlemen! India is undergoing economic and social transformation on a scale and a speed that is unmatched in history. Our growth rate was 7.3% in the last year. The World Bank has projected even better growth this year. India's economy is the fastest-growing economy among major countries. We are also working hard so that the benefits of this growth reaches to the common man. We have launched major schemes on financial inclusion. Our strategy is to:

- Energise the Economy.
- Empower the people.
- Fund the un-funded.
- Secure the poor.
- And enhance the income level of all.

Money must reach the marginalized. With this objective, we opened 190 million new bank accounts. Through them, we are trying to ensure direct transfer of benefits to the poor. This targeting is also bringing discipline in Government expenditure. We have also launched new insurance and pension schemes. Through a new Bank, called MUDRA, we are funding the small traders and businessmen. We have set time-bound goals for providing access to housing, water, electricity and sanitation for all. Thus, India is now the next frontier of economic revolution. Our changing paradigm has created new opportunities for global investor community.

These opportunities range from building 50 million affordable houses to setting up 100 smart cities; modernization of the railway network and re-development of our railway stations to setting up new railway corridors; generation of 175 GW of renewable energy to transmission and distribution networks; construction of national highways, bridges, and Metro rail networks.

Such a huge potential for creation of infrastructure and production of goods will not be available in any other country. More importantly, no one place on the earth can offer a customer base on such a massive scale.

We are trying to harness this development potential through our policies and people. The campaigns like Digital India and Skill India are designed to prepare the people to take part in this process. We have witnessed massive growth in the number of start-ups in the recent past. Some of these have begun to challenge established global players. To tap this energy fully, we have recently launched the Start up India Campaign. Start up India, Stand up India.

Friends! In the past few months, the interest of foreign investors in India has gone up tremendously. However, there were a number of regulatory and taxation issues which were adversely impacting on their sentiments. We have taken very decisive steps to remove many of the long-pending concerns.

To give you some examples:-

- We have expedited regulatory clearances including security and environmental clearance;
- We have greatly liberalised the licensing regime;
- We have increased the validity period of defence industrial licences up to eighteen years from three years;
- We have taken almost 60% of the defence items out of the licensing process and liberalised a number

of restrictions like end-use certificate for the exports;

- We have clearly articulated that we will not resort to retrospective taxation;
- and we demonstrated this position in a number of ways;
- We have introduced the concept of composite sector caps for the FPIs and other foreign investors.
- We have notified the regulations for the Alternative Investment Funds;
- We have rationalized the capital gains tax regime for Real Estate Investment Trusts;
- We have modified the Permanent Establishment norms;
- We have also decided to defer the implementation of the General Anti-Avoidance Rules for two years;
- We have introduced the GST Bill in parliament; we are hopeful to roll it out in 2016;
- A new bankruptcy code and a new IPR policy is being drafted;
- The Company Law Tribunal is going to be formed soon.
- Our system for transparent auction and allocation of key natural resources like coal, spectrum, and iron ore has now become stable.

These are just a few examples. We are working hard to make sure that our tax regime is transparent and predictable. We are also keen to see that genuine investors and honest tax payers get quick and fair decisions on tax matters. To this objective we have already made a number of corrections.

As a result of our initiatives:-

- The sentiments for inflow of foreign investment are turning into commitments.
- FDI inflows have gone up by 40% compared with previous year's corresponding period.
- Perceptions are turning into positive outcome.
- We have jumped 12 ranks in the latest ranking by the World Bank on ease of doing business.
- India climbs to become the world's 7th most valued nation brand with a 32% sprint in brand value.
- India has consistently been ranked as the most attractive investment destination by several agencies and institutions.
- India has also improved its UNCTAD ranking of investment attractiveness. We were 15th place so far. Now we are at 9th place.
- India has also jumped 16 places on the World Economic Forum's global competitive index.
- MOODY's have upgraded the rating of India as positive.

Thus, in just eighteen months, we have successfully restored the credibility of India in the eyes of global players. As soon as my government took over, we started liberalizing the FDI regime along with other reforms. We allowed 100% FDI in railways and enhanced the FDI limit to 49% in defence and insurance. We are also conscious of the last-mile operational issues in such policies. In that spirit, we are finetuning the procedures also. Early this month, we have taken very dynamic steps to further open up the economy for FDI.

With this last round of reforms:-

- India is among the most open economies for FDI.
- Some new sectors have been fully opened for FDI.
- For most of the sectors, FDI clearances are now on automatic route.
- In addition to greenfield areas, many sectors can freely absorb FDI in brownfield projects. This includes roads, construction and medical devices.
- Entry and exit conditions have been greatly relaxed for FDI.



Friends! We are keen to scale up investments in next-generation infrastructure including digital networks and clean energy. In addition to the core infrastructure, we are keen to invest in our social, industrial and agri-infrastructure to give better income and quality of life to our people.

With tight control over expenditure, we have greatly increased capital investment by the public sector. To leverage this, we are setting up the National Investment and Infrastructure Fund. We are also coming up with Tax-Free Infrastructure Bonds with a view to broaden the corporate bond market. This will also provide long-term finance for infrastructure. For infrastructure, we have also decided to launch Rupee bonds in some countries. Singapore could be among them. We are quite eager to work with Singapore in this regard.

Friends! About 800 million people in India are below the age of 35 years. Their aspirations, energy, enterprise and skills will be the force for India's economic transformation. But the immediate challenge is to productively employ the youth. For meeting this challenge, we need to provide a huge push to manufacturing which has stagnated at around 16% of the GDP for several decades. This share must reach around 25% in the short and medium term. With this in view, we have launched the "Make in India" initiative. We are working on all fronts to make India a global manufacturing hub. We are creating the global skill pool to establish a modern economy with a world-class manufacturing sector.

To achieve these objectives, apart from vigorous exercise for ease of doing business, we have fast-tracked approvals and clearances for industry and infrastructure. The hallmark of our strategy is Good Governance which is Participative and Policy-Driven.

Through PPP, we are encouraging private investments in areas where earlier only government used to invest. We are also divesting our stake in the public sector enterprises, to instill market discipline. We are consistently working to integrate our economy with the rest of the world. I hope to further dedicate the next three months to address even the remotest issues affecting free flow of capital and business to India.

Friends! Whatever we are doing, it is driven by two basic commitments: One is that our people should be in the centre. It is for them that we want investments. Our faster growth will transform lives of one sixth of the global community.

The second commitment is towards our climate, our planet, our Nature. Our commitment to mitigate the dangers of climate change do not arise from Economics or Politics. They also do not arise from fear or favour. They arise from our fundamental belief that nature is our Mother. Nature provides and sustains our life; hence we must nurture it. It is an article of faith. I assure the Global community that we will do more than required. We will stretch ourselves to do more than what we can normally do.

Both these commitments generate a wave of economic opportunities and activities which cannot be matched by any other country. They also open up enormous opportunities for investors.

To sum up; I would like to say that In the last eighteen months,

- Reforms are happening in a big way. They are now reaching to the last mile;
- Reform is to Transform the systems so that they Perform;
- Simply put, they aim at enabling the people to realise their potentials and dreams;
- Putting even more simply, it means more charm on the faces and less forms in offices;
- In addition, new frontiers and Deeper Foundations for financial markets have been laid;
- All together, Runways for take-off of the economy have been made.

Recently, the IMF chief has said that India is a bright spot in the Global economy. I did not want to wait for that brightness to reach to you on its own.

Hence, I am here. I am here to invite you to India in a bigger way. I have also come to assure you that I am there to carefully hold your hands.

Thank you very much. Thank you.

*“- You have the habit of precision;  
India has the scope for expansion*

*- You are fond of going vertical;  
India’s development is both vertical  
and horizontal*

*- You are an exciting incubator;  
India is a vast laboratory*

*Thus, Singapore and India can work  
together in many promising areas.”*

**- PM Modi in his India Singapore Economic  
Convention Special Address**

# Year of India in Singapore



**External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj, launched celebrations of 50 years of diplomatic ties in August 2014**

## **Visit by India's External Affairs Minister, Smt Sushma Swaraj**

External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj inaugurated the "Year of India", to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and Singapore. She made her introductory visit to Singapore from 15 to 16 August 2014. She called on Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong, Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong and met with Minister for Foreign Affairs and Minister for Law K Shanmugam.

She and Minister Shanmugam agreed that Singapore and India would explore further areas of collaboration, particularly in (i) scaling up investments and trade; (ii) speeding up air and maritime connectivity and coastal development; (iii) smart city development and urban rejuvenation; (iv) skills development and capacity-building; and (v) state focus to strengthen business and cultural links. Both Ministers also inaugurated a series of commemorative activities to mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Singapore diplomatic relations at the University Cultural Centre of the National University of Singapore.



## **Buddhist Art from the Indian Museum, Kolkata**

The Asian Civilisations Museum hosted a major Buddhist Art Exhibition, curated by the Indian Museum, Kolkata, which showcased the ancient Buddhist exchanges. The exhibition was held from 16 Jun 2015 to 16 Aug 2015. The Indian Museum, Kolkata, is the oldest museum in Asia. Singapore's strong historic ties to Kolkata give this exhibition a special resonance. Important sculptures and paintings from the Indian Museum in Kolkata traced the Jataka stories (past life stories of the Buddha), scenes from the life of the Buddha, and symbols used to represent Buddhist concepts. Representations of bodhisattvas and the Buddha were on display. The exhibition was inaugurated by Mr Mahesh Sharma, Minister of State for Culture of India and Mr Lawrence Wong, Minister for Culture, Community and Youth of Singapore.



## **INS Sudarshini in Singapore**

The Indian Navy's sail training ship, INS Sudarshini, arrived on a five-day visit as part of celebrations to mark the 50 years of diplomatic relationship between India and Singapore. The ship was welcomed by a Bharatanatyam Dance by students from the Global Indian International School in Singapore and musical performance by a band from Singapore's National Cadet Corps, Ministry of Education.



# Ministerial Visits

The relationship and cooperation between Singapore and various states of India also intensified during the Golden Jubilee year. Chief Ministers of West Bengal, Telangana, Rajasthan and Andhra Pradesh visited Singapore. ESM Goh Chok Tong visited India and Singapore was a Partner Country of the 7th Vibrant Gujarat Summit 2015. Also, delegations from Assam, Sikkim, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat visited Singapore.

## Finance Minister A. Jaitley in Singapore



Union Minister for Finance, Corporate Affairs and Information & Broadcasting, Shri Arun Jaitley, visited Singapore from 18 to 19 September 2015, where he addressed the Singapore Summit and also spoke at “Emerging India: Opportunity Beckons” Seminar. He met Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong; Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Foreign Minister K. Shanmugam.



## Chief Minister of West Bengal

The Chief Minister of West Bengal Mamata Banerjee visited Singapore from 18 to 22 August 2014.

During her visit the Chief Minister called on Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong at the Istana. Minister Shanmugam hosted a lunch on 21 August 2014 and she delivered the Keynote Address at the West Bengal Business Forum.

## Chief Minister of Telangana

Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrababhan Rao visited Singapore at the invitation of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Alumni Association. The association extended an invitation to Rao to attend its conference in 22 to 23 August 2015. This was the first foreign tour by Rao since he took over as the first chief minister of Telangana.



## Chief Minister of Rajasthan

The Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje, visited Singapore from 13 to 16 October 2014. She met DPM Tharman Shanmugaratnam; Minister for Foreign Affairs K Shanmugam; Minister for Environment and Water Resources Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, as well as Minister in Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, S Iswaran. CM Raje spoke at a business seminar on 15 October 2014.

In conjunction with the Resurgent Rajasthan Partnership Summit in November 2015, 19 representatives from 10 companies joined IE Singapore to explore investment opportunities in Rajasthan. Minister for Home Affairs, K Shanmugam, led the Singapore delegation.



## Visit by Urban Development Minister V. Naidu

M. Venkaiah Naidu visited the Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA) and the Centre for Liveable cities and held discussions about Singapore's public housing schemes and regulations for private housing. Means of financing of urban transport infrastructure was also discussed while Singapore was interested in partnering with India in the urban development sector. He also met Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and former Prime Minister and Emeritus Minister Goh Chok Tong.



## Minister of Heavy Industries at SG National Day Jubilee Celebrations

Shri Anant Geete, Honourable Minister of Heavy Industries and Public Enterprises, represented India at the National Day Celebrations on the occasion of Singapore's 50th anniversary of Independence.



## AP Chief Minister's Visit

Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh, N. Chandrababu Naidu, visited Singapore in September 2015 and invited Prime Minister HE Lee Hsien Loong to the foundation laying ceremony of the new AP capital, Amaravati, on 22 October 2015. He also met Second Minister of Trade and Industry Mr S Iswaran. He was accompanied by Finance Minister, Yanamala Rama Krishnu, Municipal Administration Minister P. Narayana, Communications Advisor Parakala Prabhakar and senior officials. He also delivered a lecture at the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) during his three-day visit.

© Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs



## Minister of Railways Visits Singapore

Minister of Railways Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu visited Singapore to participate as a key speaker during the Infrastructure Finance Summit 2015 organised on 20th October 2015 by the World Bank in association with the Government of Singapore. Suresh Prabhu was specially invited by the Deputy Prime Minister of Singapore, Mr Tharman Shanmugaratnam, to share experiences on the instrumental work that Indian Railways is doing in Infrastructure financing. He also met Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.

## Visit by Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister

Mr Shivraj Singh Chouhan, Chief Minister of Madhya Pradesh visited in January 2016 and was accompanied by a high-level Government and Business delegation. The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), with the support of the Indian High Commission in Singapore, organised a Business Seminar, where the Chief Minister provided insights, showcased emerging opportunities and outlined business / investment possibilities in various sectors in Madhya Pradesh.



## Singapore a Partner Country at Vibrant Gujarat

Forty Singapore companies spanning the urban solutions, construction, logistics, energy and IT sectors were in Gujarat to further business interests in India's second fastest-growing state. Business mission was jointly organised by International Enterprise (IE) Singapore and the Singapore Business Federation (SBF). The Singapore delegation was led by Mr S Iswaran, Minister for Trade and Industry of Singapore.



## Visits & Interactions



### Fourth Meeting of the India-Singapore Joint Ministerial Committee for Bilateral Cooperation

On 12 October 2015, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, met with Indian Minister of External Affairs and Overseas Indian Affairs, Sushma Swaraj, in New Delhi. During the meeting, the Ministers welcomed the regular exchange of high-level visits between India and Singapore and noted the excellent state of bilateral relations as both countries celebrate the 50th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations this year. They reaffirmed the decision to elevate the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership during the official visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi in November 2015, which would entail, inter alia, the expansion of co-operation in five focal areas: (i) Scaling up investment and trade; (ii) Speeding up air and maritime connectivity; (iii) Smart City development and urban rejuvenation; (iv) Skills development and capacity building; and (v) State focus to strengthen business and cultural links. They agreed that the Strategic Partnership should be ambitious and forward-looking with concrete deliverables.

*“Singapore has played a key role in the revival of the Nalanda University, which is a symbol of our historical linkages and an abiding example of Asian cooperation.”*

**- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during her introductory visit to Singapore from 15 to 16 August 2014**

## On a Special Note

### Singaporean Chancellor of Nalanda University

On 17 July 2015, Mr George Yeo, Singapore's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, took over from Nobel prize-winning economist Amartya Sen, who had announced in February that he would step down. Mr Yeo, 60, has been one of the movers of a project to revive Nalanda University, the ancient seat of learning in Bihar state, and is part of a 12-member governing board.



# In India's Growth Story, You Write the Next Chapter



India Development Foundation  
of Overseas Indians

The India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians (IDF-OI) is a not-for-profit Trust established by the Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs which enables overseas Indians to contribute to social and development projects in India. The Trust is exempt from the provisions of Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, 2010

The Trust is chaired by Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Hon'ble Minister for Overseas Indian Affairs. Other Board members are prominent overseas Indians, eminent resident Indians and Senior Government of India officials.



*"Although, the Indian Diaspora is a very heterogeneous group, there is a common factor which binds them- their desire to maintain their connection with their homeland and to contribute to the social and development efforts in India. We are seeking to strengthen and deepen our relationship through IDF-OI."*

Smt. Sushma Swaraj  
Hon'ble Minister of Overseas  
Indian Affairs &  
Chairperson, IDF-OI

## How We Work

Submission of Projects by Nodal Organisations to IDF-OI

Assessment & Selection of Projects by IDF-OI

Selection of a Project by Overseas Indian

Payment made by NRI/PIO

Project Implementation - Agreement Between IDF-OI & Project  
Implementing Agency

Funds Transferred to Project Implementation Agency

Regular Monitoring & Feedback to Contributors by Implementing Agency

Project Completion & Utilisation Report to Contributor by IDF-OI

## Engage With Us

- You can select a project in totality or an individual component of a project as per state or sector of your preference.
- Recognition to contributors: Board at project site acknowledging contribution of Overseas Indians.

Detailed Project Information: [www.idfoi.org](http://www.idfoi.org)

## Inviting Overseas Indians to Contribute to:

- Swachh Bharat Mission
- Clean Ganga Mission
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Send your Contribution to  
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Overseas Indians'  
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Central Secretariat Branch,  
North Block, New Delhi 110001  
A/C no. 33819721882;  
IFSC code SBIN0000625;  
MICR 110002014

India Development Foundation of Overseas Indians

927, Ministry of Overseas Indian Affairs, Akbar Bhawan, Satya Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021

Website: [www.idfoi.org](http://www.idfoi.org) Contact: +91 11 26881052/24676210; Email: [ceo.idf@moia.nic.in](mailto:ceo.idf@moia.nic.in)

# ISAS Chairman: We Need to Understand India Better

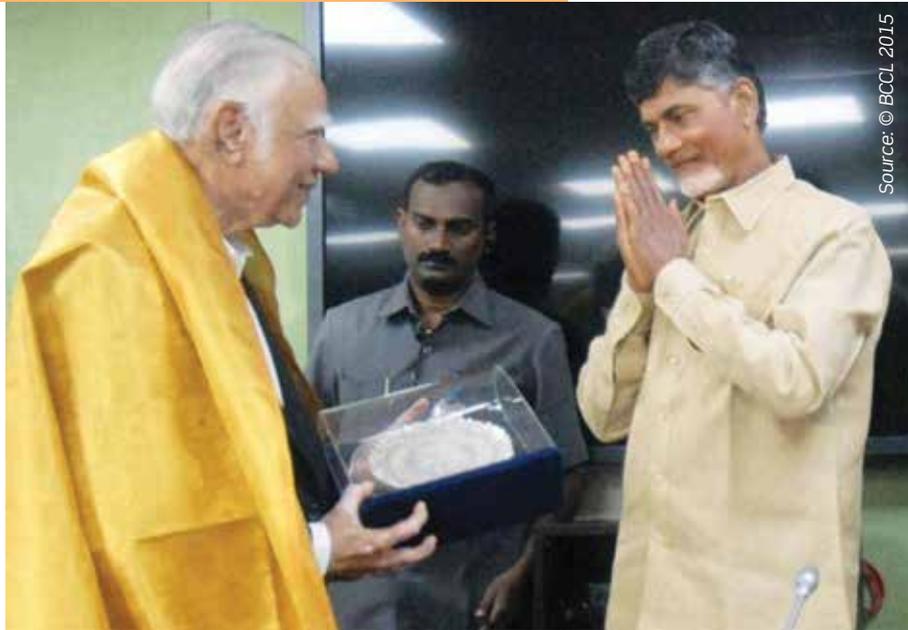
HE Gopinath Pillai, Singapore's Ambassador-at-Large and Chairman of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS), is spearheading cooperation between Singapore and Andhra Pradesh

**P**adma Shri award recipient Singaporean Gopinath Pillai has been well-recognised by the government of India for his contributions in enhancing Singapore-India ties as he was given the fourth highest Indian civilian award, in 2012. His life-long relationship with India began in childhood in Kerala, under the warmth and care of his maternal grandfather, and the relationship with India continues even today. As the Chairman of ISAS, he has opened many doors and created alliances in the academic circles in India as part of ISAS' agenda to understand South Asia, in particular India. Following the mild India fever started by Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in 1994, he was one of the pioneers in tapping business opportunities there. As a businessman, he had successfully invested in the logistics industry in India from which he and his group has exited.

More recently, to commemorate 50 years of diplomatic ties, ISAS published 'Singapore and India: Towards a Shared Future', a special volume outlining the 50-year bilateral relationship covering historical, diplomatic, economic and cultural areas. Singapore's President Tony Tan Keng Yam launched the 200-page book in New Delhi and presented a volume to Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi on his visit to India in February 2015. In conversation with **Nomita Dhar**, he shares his thoughts:

## **What was behind the creation of the Institute of South Asian Studies (ISAS) and its connection with PM Modi?**

Singapore is a small country but we do have our strengths which can be useful to other countries. For that to happen we need to get to know those countries better. The purpose of ISAS as well as other institutes such as the Institute of Southeast Asia, East Asian Institute and Middle East Institute at the National University of Singapore to study and understand these regions in depth. India is by far the largest economy in South Asia in terms of GDP, and ISAS devotes about 70 per cent of our resources to understanding India. Coincidentally, in the inaugural forum organised by the



HE Gopinath Pillai (left) with AP Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu.

newly formed ISAS more than 10 years ago, the first speaker we invited was then Chief Minister of Gujarat, Mr Narendra Modi. Many had asked me about my choice then. I told them this man is transforming a major state in India and we wanted him to share his experiences and his thought process with us.

## **What is your impression of PM Modi's visit in November?**

I think it was a very good visit. Mr Modi has a great deal of charisma and physical energy. I heard how in his first visit to Washington, he went through the whole programme without cancelling anything even though he was fasting at that time. He managed to establish a rapport with Singapore and PM HE Lee Hsien Loong. He touched the hearts of Singaporeans when he attended the funeral of Singapore's founding father, Mr Lee Kuan Yew, and also declared a day of mourning in India where flags were flown at half-mast. No one prompted him to do this; he said he respected this man and he would do it. On a country-to-country basis, I am happy we have raised the level of relationship to Strategic Partnership.

## **Much of your time now must be devoted to the new Andhra Pradesh (AP) capital city project. How unique is the project, especially the government-to-government assistance offered to India?**

Singapore has done the town planning for Amaravati. We have done similar projects in China (in Tianjin and Suzhou). But the project implementation itself might well be offered on a Swiss Challenge basis to preferred partners and this can open up opportunities for private sector players.

### Can you share some of the background on why Singapore was chosen?

Mr Chandrababu was a very successful chief minister of AP during his previous term and made very good friends with our leaders, including Mr Goh Chok Tong. When he fell out of power, many other leaders did not keep in touch with him but Mr Goh did. He said, "Even though I might not have returned to power again, as a person he (Mr Goh) wanted me as a friend." After he was re-elected, the first person he thought of was Goh Chok Tong and Singapore. He felt Singapore has performed very well, building itself up from practically nothing. Andhra Pradesh is now a bifurcated state, with the existing capital, Hyderabad going to Telangana and the new capital has to be built from scratch. Singapore did the Master plan and we were able to do it within a very short span of time. We have done this elsewhere, so it is relatively easier for us. We kept in mind the local conditions. The foundation stone was just recently laid at Amaravati in October. The next step will be to see who will be chosen as the master builder for the project.

### Your comments on India-Singapore ties in the next 10 years?

Singapore and India have a problem-free relationship, there being no issues that make it difficult for us. Things will progress at a steady pace and I don't expect them to be very, very different. Each generation of leaders will take it to the next stage. In the past, Mr Lee Kuan Yew was sometimes critical, but India takes it well and positively like advice from a friend rather than

a confrontational comment. So our relationship is very solid and firm and I expect it will continue to be so.

### How did you first become interested in India?

I was born in Singapore but, during WWII, I spent my childhood in India. My mother is from Kerala and we had gone there for holiday but were 'stuck' there when war broke out and we could not get a ship to return. My interest in India started from then. In the early 90's, former Prime Minister Narasimha Rao started opening up the country and Mr Goh Chok

Tong started a mild India fever. That was when I and some of my friends decided to invest in the port related logistics sector. We were politically agnostic but believed that, if we persevere, possess the ability to manage problems, have empathy for the country and the conviction that we have a useful project, we will succeed. Indeed, we compared the numbers similar projects in Malaysia and China and found the returns from India were much better.

### What is your message to the next generation of Singaporeans with regards to India?

Singapore is a very structured society and very rule-bound. India is very different. We must learn how to manage in a different environment, as there are more countries like India than Singapore (just look around the countries in our region). We have become prosperous and therefore more risk-averse. We should be more adventurous like our forefathers. India offers great opportunities and we should not miss them for frivolous reasons. You must be patient and it must be an act of faith, then you will receive good results.



## SINGAPORE AND INDIA: TOWARDS A SHARED FUTURE

Published by the Institute of South Asian Studies

A comprehensive look back that spans more than just the 50 years before formal diplomatic ties were established between the two countries. From Raffles' pre-colonial days it documents how "trade, colonial rule, migration and the struggle for nationhood forged a long-standing relationship and it also examines how diplomatic, economic and cultural relations have continued to deepen in the post-independence years up till the present." The volume is available for download from ISAS' website at <http://www.isas.nus.edu.sg>



# CII: New Horizons in India-Singapore Economic Partnership

How the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) can help Singapore companies ride on India's concerted development endeavour

by Chandrajit Banerjee  
Director General, Confederation of Indian Industry

India enjoys a special friendship with Singapore, deepened and strengthened over 50 years since we established diplomatic relations. As Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi emphasized during his visit to Singapore in November 2015, 'our relationship is written in the pages of history, the footprints of culture, the ties of kinship and the old connection of commerce.'

Singapore has always championed and supported India's development endeavour through multidimensional platforms of cooperation, especially since the 'India Fever' announced by then Prime Minister Mr Goh Chok Tong during an interaction with the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) in 1992. The two countries have agreed to elevate the bilateral relationship to a Strategic Partnership and economic cooperation will continue to be a cornerstone of our friendship in days to come.

Today, the Indian Government has ushered in a new wave of growth through a range of proactive and relevant measures. India's GDP, which expanded by an annual pace of 7.4 per cent in the last decade, exhibited a rate of growth of 7.2 per cent in the first half of the current financial year and is widely expected to surge ahead in the next few years. The rapid pace of growth is accompanied by stable macroeconomic indicators such as inflation, current account deficit and fiscal deficit.

The two governments envisage a 5-S plan for the future. This includes efforts to Scale Up trade and investments, Speed Up connectivity, Smart Cities, Skill Development, and State Level Focus. These derive from India's special developmental programs, which are far-reaching in their benefits.

Singapore is already a strong participant in many of these areas. Its partnership in the Smart City initiative, which involves an estimated expenditure of \$690 billion, is helping shape the future of urban evolution in India. Singapore has taken a pole position in development of ports with the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust (JNPT) agreement and in airport management beginning with two Indian airports.

The 'Make in India' programme is a special initiative to build up Indian manufacturing. It aims to achieve manufacturing contribution of 25 per cent of GDP by 2025 while creating millions of new jobs in the sector. The mission covers ease of doing business, infrastructure upgrading, skill development and intellectual property rights. Easier labour laws and facilitative procedures for submission of returns are also enabled through the E-Biz portal. Environmental and forest clearances have been simplified and fast-tracked.

The Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion (DIPP) assists investors through an Investor Facilitation Cell. Sectors such as defence production, electronics -hardware manufacturing and construction are receiving significant policy attention and attracting investments. For Singapore, which successfully partnered on the IT Park in Bengalurumany years back, the proposal for industrial corridors under Make in India can be a new investment opportunity. This could also help sync India with the newly formed ASEAN Economic Community, making Singapore an effective bridge between India and ASEAN economies. Singapore can also participate in the Skill Development Mission launched recently to skill 400 million workers by 2022.

Today, Singapore is one of India's largest investment source as well as a preferred destination for Indian companies. It is our tenth largest trade partner and the largest in the ASEAN region. We in CII believe that the India-Singapore partnership can multiply manifold, given India's concerted development endeavour.



Mr Chandrajit Banerjee



PM HE Narendra Modi with (far right) Mr Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore's Ambassador to India at the laying of the foundation stone ceremony of the fourth JNPT container terminal by BMCT Pte Ltd (a wholly-owned subsidiary of PSA International Pte Ltd) on 11 October 2015

The CII umbrella is a useful starting point for Singaporean companies seeking opportunities in India. CII has been active in Singapore since long. Coinciding with the 'India Fever' started by then Singapore Prime Minister and India's 'Look East' policy, CII set up its office in Singapore in 1994, and since then has undertaken a range of initiatives to partner with the Indian and Singapore Governments on enhancing trade and investments. The focus has been to continuously create new pipelines of connectivity between businesses of both sides and to strengthen the India Brand.

CII's strong linkages with Governments and institutions on both sides help it to develop business networks. The Singapore office works closely with the Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry as well as economic bodies, academic institutions, chambers of commerce, community associations and think-tanks on business delegations, conferences and other events.

With 64 offices in all regions of India, CII is the bridge between international business and Indian enterprises. We work closely with the Central Government at New Delhi on evolving nationwide economic policies and presenting the industry perspective. In addition, CII is deeply engaged with State governments for tailored policy frameworks to propel economic development and industrial growth.

CII is privileged to be the institutional partner for the DIPP in hosting the 'Make in India Week' from 13 to 18 February 2016 in Mumbai. Along with the main Central Government event, other agenda items include State seminars, sectoral events, B2B networking, and so on. 'Make in India Week' promises to establish a new surge of investments in the Indian manufacturing sector. We would like Singaporean business to be a vital player in this exciting program and would assist through our Singapore office in any way possible.

CII believes that the unfolding of the India-Singapore economic relationship is beneficial for the overall stability and progress of Asia and the entity will continue to forge fresh horizons in building this relationship.

“Singapore, which is ranked first in ease of doing business, is happy to work with CII to take forward the state-level dialogue on ease of doing business. Our MoU with CII today is the first step in this direction.”

- Lim Thuan Kuan, Singapore's High Commissioner to India at the CII conference on 'Make in India: Focus North' in March 2015

# SMART CITIES: Transforming Cities, Transforming India

## India is on the brink of an urban revolution with its Smart Cities initiative that targets 100 cities

**T**he steady pace of global population growth is corresponding to migration towards urban areas, leading experts to predict that the world's urban population will double by 2050. In India, the urban population is currently 31 per cent of the total global population and contributes over 60 per cent to the GDP of the country. The cities are referred to as the drivers of economic growth. It is expected that three-fourths of Indians will live in cities by 2030.

Large scale urbanisation means cities must be equipped with a coping mechanism to manage influx from rural areas, increase productivity and efficiency, reduce strain on resources and improve the quality of life. In short, cities must become “smart”.

### Transforming Cities

With its urban population set to rise by more than 400 million to 814 million by 2050, India faces the kind of mass urbanisation witnessed in China. Many of its cities are already bursting at the seams. Ahead of the General Elections last May, Indian Prime Minister HE Narendra Modi promised 100 Smart Cities by 2022 to accommodate rapid urbanisation.

What exactly is a “Smart City”? The intersection between competitiveness, capital and sustainability is what makes a city capable of giving a quality of life to its inhabitants. According to the Smart Cities website of the Ministry of Urban Development, Government of India ([indiansmartcities.in](http://indiansmartcities.in)): “The Smart Cities should be able to provide good infrastructure such as water, sanitation, reliable utility services, health care; attracting investments; transparent processes that make it easy to run commercial activities; simple and online processes for obtaining approvals.”

### Accomplishments

Smart Cities Council India has been formed to promote development of Smart Cities in the country. It is part of the US-based Smart Cities Council, a consortium of smart-city practitioners and experts, with 100-plus members and advisor organisations operating in over 140 countries. The mission of building 100 Smart Cities intends to promote adoption of smart solutions for efficient use of available resources and infrastructure with the objective of enhancing the quality of urban life and providing a clean and sustainable environment. The initiative could get a boost with a template readied by the European Union.

The Union Government plans to spend Rupee 48,000 crore on creating these Smart Cities over the next five years. For now, Gujarat International Finance

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Tec-City (GIFT), the first such model city, has modern underground infrastructure and two office blocks and there is a plan in place for a planned metropolis, complete with high-rises, drinking water, automated waste collection and dedicated power supply. GIFT promises to be a financial hub and aims to compete with India's own financial capital of Mumbai and international cities.

### Real-Time Analytics

Technology helps maximise utilisation of resources by leveraging data collected from sensors, controls and real-time data analytics. It can be used to improve key segments like buildings which consume 40 per cent of all energy in India as well as utilities, healthcare, governance, transportation and education. This move could reverse decades of neglect. In fact, in cities such as Dholera and Surat in the west and Visakhapatnam in the east, aid from organisations such as Microsoft, IBM and Cisco has already started coming in to assist this massive makeover exercise. Recently, West Bengal chief minister Ms Mamata Banerjee shared that her government would develop seven Smart Cities in the state which would have all modern facilities for decent living. These Smart Cities will come up near Siliguri, near Gazol in Malda district, near Kalyani in Nadia district, near Bolpur in Birbhum district, near the industrial towns of Asansol-Durgapur covering Churulia, (birthplace of Kazi Nazrul Islam), near Garia in the southern outskirts of Kolkata and near the state secretariat in Nabanna.

Thus, Smart Cities and rejuvenation of cities will not only lay out the path for more livable cities but provide the required growth engine for the Indian economy.

*“Singapore is delighted to be Andhra Pradesh’s partner in masterplanning and developing its new capital city and surrounding region. A good masterplan lays a strong foundation, and its effective implementation, beginning with the seed development, will ensure the city develops sustainably into a vibrant political, economic and cultural centre of the state.”*

**- Mr S. Iswaran, Minister in the Prime Minister’s Office and Second Minister for Home Affairs and Trade and Industry, on the agreement signed between IE Singapore and the Infrastructure Corporation of the Andhra Pradesh government to prepare the masterplan and develop the new state capital.**

# Yoga in the New Millennium

With hectic schedules and innumerable commitments likely to assume greater significance in the years to come, yoga seems to be the only advisable remedy

by Yogacharya S Sridharan

For the first time ever, June 21 is being celebrated as the “International Day of Yoga” all over the world. Interestingly, this date was announced by the United Nations and all countries including India, the land of origin of yoga, agreed to celebrate the same in a befitting way.

On this occasion, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon declared that the International Day of Yoga would bring attention to yoga’s holistic benefits. “Yoga can contribute to resilience against non-communicable diseases. It can bring communities together in an inclusive manner that generates respect and is a sport that can contribute to development and peace. It can even help people in emergency situations to find relief from stress”, Ban said in a statement. The awareness has crossed all boundaries. Interestingly, at this juncture, the question may arise as to why is there a sudden surge in the interest about yoga? Even today yoga is considered as a “spiritual practice” to be taken up only by those who have interest in that path and particularly after an age when the mind turns to find the reason for survival.

One of the most important causes is that this highly subjective science was objectively looked at by modern science which highlighted the merits of yoga. Anything which just promotes the sensual pleasure has short life as the taste undergoes change. The mind and senses, by their nature, are subject to constant change and unable to bear the monotony. Civilisations too constantly look for change. Only those who adapt to newer circumstances survive. In this context, yoga has all the essential elements which provide it the wherewithal to

meet the requirements of the demand. Those techniques/objects which provide temporary solution go into oblivion. The adaptability of yoga to any situation and demand is its strength.

What started off in the caves of the Himalayas today brings succour to thousands, even in the hospitals. Yoga is “self-sufficient” and makes the practitioner “independent”. It is this unique feature that makes yoga popular. The course of yoga, like that of a river, flows for the welfare of all. Up to a decade ago, it was practised within small circles, but it has assumed international interest now. Let us look at what is in store for yoga in this millennium. In the years to come, yoga will assume a central position in “healing”, thereby becoming a compulsory complimentary healing system, not an alternative one.

Interestingly, the miraculous effects in healing mental illness make it the first choice of even neuroscientists. This is in the area of “yoga therapy”. When it comes to yoga as a “fitness regimen”, it has slowly started replacing gyms, even on international platforms. Yoga provides physical and mental fitness without side-effects.

Additionally, in the area of spirituality, its “neutral” stand on acceptance of a god makes it the best supplementary practice with any religious belief system. With time, we will be witnessing more of scientific inventions that will make human beings rely more on “gadgets” for today’s living and, in turn, will bring illnesses of “wrong lifestyle”. Therefore, regular yoga practice will become a compulsory regimen to move all the limbs of the body and keep them properly hydrated with fresh blood, keeping the body in good shape.

**About the author:** Member (governing body) of the Morarji Desai National Institute of Yoga, New Delhi, and trustee at Krishnamacharya Yoga Mandiram, Chennai.

Above article first appeared in India Perspectives Vol 29 Issue 4 Jul-Aug 2015



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## International Day of Yoga, Singapore 21 June 2015



On 21 June 2015 - yoga everywhere you go - at the Botanical Gardens and the India High Commission (inset)

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The first UN International Day of Yoga was on 21 June 2015. In Singapore, the event was organised at 50 centres around the island by the High Commission of India. They ranged from Changi International Airport, iconic malls, workers dormitories and gardens, to schools, polytechnics, universities and community centres and at the High Commission.

Participation was overwhelming with about 4,000 people taking part and it exceeded the registered capacity. The Minister in Prime Minister's Office, Ms Grace Fu, along with local MPs, schoolchildren, professionals, migrant workers, members of the diplomatic corps, Indian community, senior executives from business and other organisations and Singaporeans from all walks of life engaged in it. The event was also part of the commemorative celebrations marking the 50 years of the establishment of India-Singapore relations and 50 years of independence of Singapore.

*“Yoga is an invaluable gift of India’s ancient tradition. It embodies unity of mind and body; thought and action; restraint and fulfilment; harmony between man and nature; a holistic approach to health and well-being. It is not about exercise but to discover the sense of oneness within yourself, the world and the nature.”*

**- PM Narendra Modi during his address to the UN General Assembly calling for the adoption of 21 June as International Day of Yoga.**

# CONGRATULATIONS

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# MAKE IN INDIA Initiative

## PM Modi's aggressive push to revive the manufacturing sector has found resonance

**'M'**ake in India' initiative was launched globally in September 2014 as a part of India's renewed focus on Manufacturing. The objective of the Initiative is to promote India as the most preferred global manufacturing destination.

Since the launch of this landmark initiative, the Government of India has taken several reform initiatives to create an enabling environment for providing an impetus to manufacturing, design, innovation and startups. India has emerged as the fastest growing economy globally. India's rate of growth of 7.5% is accelerating and it remains an oasis of growth in the midst of a subdued economic landscape across the world. The Prime Minister has given impetus to growth with several innovative initiatives such as "Make in India", "Digital India", "100 Smart Cities" and "Skill India".



- 1st among 100 countries on the growth, innovation, and leadership index
- 1st amongst 110 global investment destinations
- 7th most valued national brand in the world
- India's rank jumped 12 positions in Ease of Doing Business 2016 list by World Bank
- India moved 16 places in the Global Competitiveness Index 2015-16

Some success stories of Make in India so far:

- **Ministry of Railways** signed formal agreements with global giants AlstomBSE -0.56 % and GE Transport to set up locomotive manufacturing factories in Madhepura and Marhaura in Bihar.

#### **Electronics:**

- Foxconn announces 10-12 facilities in India
- Oppo, ZTE, Phicomm invest in India
- One Plus, ASUS announces mobile manufacturing

#### **Automobiles**

- Mercedes Benz invest aggressively in India
- BMW increases 50% localization
- Volvo, Ford in with R&D facility

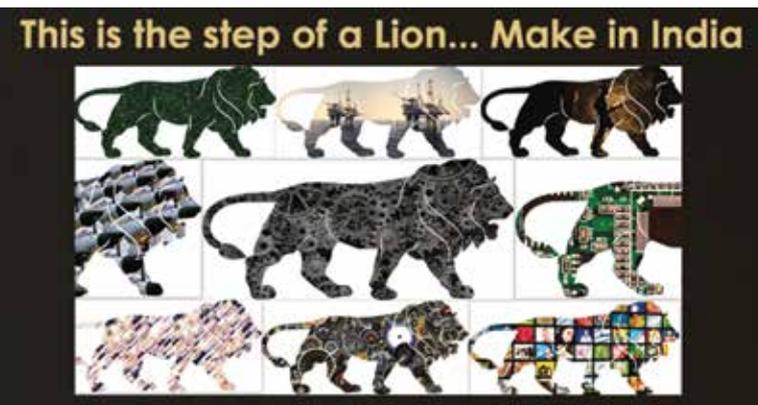
#### **Defence**

- Hyundai to build warships
- Sun Group to build Russian helicopters
- Reliance and international partners to build nuclear submarines and stealth warships

#### **Aviation**

- Airbus to increase exports from India up to US\$2 bn
- Pratt & Whitney evinced interest to Make in India

The clarion call "Come Make in India" has transformed into an effective strategy to become a huge success in creating a buzz globally. To provide greater momentum to the initiative, the Indian government is organizing a landmark event, "Make in India Week," in Mumbai 13 to 18 February 2016 which will be inaugurated by the Prime Minister of India.



The Make in India initiative aims to make India an integral part of the global supply chain. It is about making Indian companies excel in a globalized workspace. India has vigorously opened up its economy – Defence, Railways, Construction, Insurance, Pension Funds, Medical Devices have all been rapidly opened up for Foreign Direct Investment. India today is one of the most open economies of the world.

In order to achieve this, the Indian Government has taken up a series of measures to radically improve Ease of Doing Business. Its objective – make the regulatory environment easy and simple for business to flourish. It has effectively used technology to converge and integrate departments. Fourteen services are integrated with eBiz portal which will function as a single window portal for obtaining clearances from various government agencies.

Make in India has already created a strong impact in form of improved business environment and economic growth, as follows:

- India is now 1st amongst the world's most attractive investment destinations
- 1st amongst world's fastest growing economies



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Parkway Pantai celebrates 50 years of India-Singapore relations by partnering with Indian healthcare majors.

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**Bangalore:** BGS Global Hospitals / Global Hospitals (Vijayanagar, Ramnagar & Richmond Circle)

**Chennai:** Global Health City **Hyderabad:** Continental Hospitals / Global Hospitals (Lakdi-ka-pul & L B Nagar)

**Mumbai:** Global Hospitals **Kolkata:** Apollo Gleneagles Hospital

# Get Set and Go to India for Adventure

Adventure tourism is rapidly gaining popularity in India as tourists seek vacations of a different kind

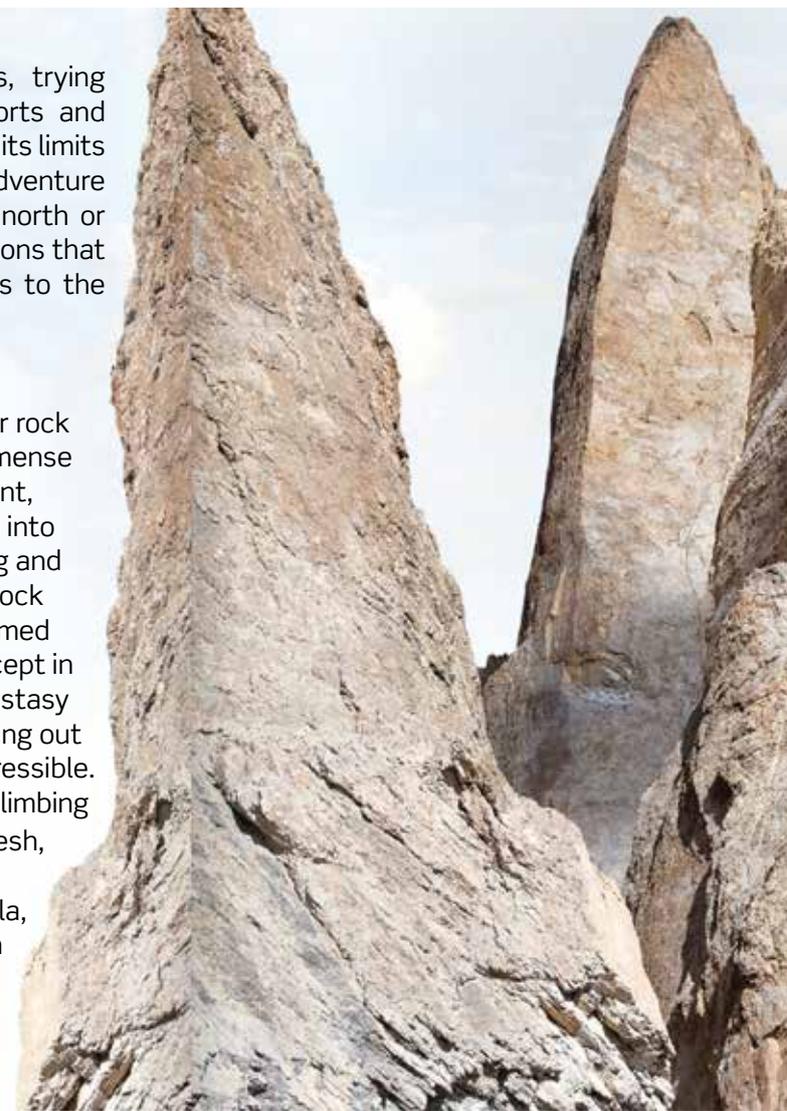


**T**ravelling to remote areas, trying challenging adventure sports and testing one's endurance to its limits account to what we know as adventure tourism. Be it in the east, west, north or south, the country has ample options that offer the desired adrenaline kicks to the adventure enthusiasts.

## ROCK CLIMBLING

The possibilities for rock climbing in India are immense and, to a large extent, unexplored. Classified into free climbing, aid climbing and free-and-aid climbing - rock climbing can be performed throughout the year, except in monsoon months. The ecstasy of reaching the top and calling out to the world is simply inexpressible.

Some of the best sites for rock climbing in India are Sar Pass in Himachal Pradesh, Miyar Valley in Himachal Pradesh, Shey Rock in Kashmir, Paithamala in Kerala, Madhugiri in Karnataka, Malshej Ghat in Maharashtra and Hampi and Badami in Karnataka.



Above article first appeared in India Perspectives Vol 29 Issue 5 Sep-Oct 2015

*“...our fundamental belief that nature is our Mother. Nature provides and sustains our life; hence we must nurture it. It is an article of faith.”*

**- PM HE Narendra Modi on India's commitment to climate change in his special address at the India-Singapore Economic Convention**

# Jai Hind!



## Happy Republic Day



Air India salutes the nation on its 67th Republic Day.

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### SCUBA DIVING

The magic of aqua blue-green water and the aquatic life form the perfect fabric for a spectacular scuba diving experience. The flora and fauna and the untouched coral reefs offer a realm of marine splendours. The best places for scuba diving in India are the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Lakshwadeep Islands, Islands of Netrani (off Karnataka's coast) and Goa. Scuba diving in Goa provides a lifetime experience, with the Grand Island being the most popular spot.

## *Congratulations to India and Singapore on their 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Bilateral Relations & Strategic Partnership*

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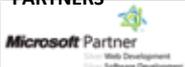
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## ANGLING

For any sport to survive in its true spirit, coordination is a must. Port Blair is a paradise for angling enthusiasts and ideal for saltwater angling. Due to the ban on commercial fishing, the reefs have an untouched beauty. Chidiyatapu, 25 km from Port Blair, is one of the best angling destinations in India. Cinque Island and Rutland are other popular destinations. One can also look forward to the mesmerising sunsets.

Species found in this region include sailfish, yellowfin tuna and giant trevally. Other locations for angling are the Ramganga and Mahakali rivers in Uttarakhand, the Beas River in Kullu Manali, The Dodital Lake in the Himalayas, the Indus and Lidder rivers in Kashmir, the Kameng River, Pasighat on River Siang, and Tezu on River Lohit in Arunachal Pradesh. The best time for angling is between November and mid-April.



## PARAGLIDING

Did you ever want to fly like a bird as a kid? Paragliding fulfills not only childhood fantasies but also satiates an adult soul. The Western Ghats in Maharashtra is one of the most preferred destinations for paragliding in India. There are locations with ideal lifting and landing places all through the Sahyadri ridges like Chikhaldara, Panchgani, Kamshet and Bhandardara. Panchgani is the unnamed headquarters of paragliding in the state, with amazing flying spots in Khinger, Bhilar and Tapola. Some other locations are Kunjapuri, Garhwal and Bedni Bugyal in Uttarakhand and Bir Billing in Himachal Pradesh.



## RIVER RAFTING

Mighty and unpredictable is the flow of the rivers. Following the unknown bends and soaking in water mixed air are some of the few experiences of river rafting. Rishikesh has been recognised as the adventure capital of India. Experienced rafters can test their skills against the powerful waves whereas people who are new to the sport can go in for clear passages with smaller waves. Other destinations are Zaskar River in Ladakh, Brahmaputra River in Arunachal Pradesh, Teesta River in Darjeeling, Barapole River in Coorg and Alaknanda River in Uttarakhand. The best time to visit Rishikesh is between late September and mid-November and between March and the first week of May.



## CONTINUING INNOVATIONS AND CULTIVATING DREAMS FOR OVER 17 YEARS.

The innovation-led, future-focused Mantri Developers Pvt. Ltd. Established in 1999 by Mr. Sushil Mantri, the company has been the pioneering force behind the rapidly changing skyline of south India, with developments that span the residential, retail, education, commercial and hospitality sectors.

In just 17 years, the company has built over 24 projects. Today, as part of its diversified portfolio Mantri Developers cumulatively has to its credit over 21 million square feet of constructed area, over 30,000 satisfied residents and 30 million square feet under various stages of construction. Mantri Developers has a track record of delivering 1.4 homes per day since inception. The company plans to focus on the residential sector, retail, hospitality, IT Parks and educational institutions in Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune.

Mantri Developers has also changed the commercial space landscape with a host of premium & ultra-modern complexes. The company has also recently made a foray into the high-growth area of office leasing apart from Bangalore in Pune and Hyderabad which is spread over 11 mn sq ft.

In the realm of retail, Mantri Developers has created one of south India's most prominent and one of the largest malls in the country. The Mantri Square in Bangalore is spread over an astonishing 1.7 million sq. ft. of space, and hosts over 250 retail outlets. The company is also on the threshold of creating further landmarks in retail and is in the process of launching 4mn square feet in Bangalore in the current financial year.

Mantri Developers is now leveraging this expertise by foraying into competitive international markets such as Dubai, Singapore and the USA. Domestically though, it will continue to focus on residential, retail, office, hospitality, townships and educational institutions in the high-growth urban centres such as Bangalore, Chennai, Hyderabad and Pune.

For more information, please log on to [www.mantri.in](http://www.mantri.in)



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# The Flowering of the Indian Performance Arts Scene

**New book 'Kala Manjari' details 50 Years of Indian Classical Music and Dance in Singapore**

**T**he book is a tribute to individuals and organisations, who have contributed to the colourful history of the Indian arts in Singapore. The title, Kala Manjari, literally means “a bouquet of art” and it covers the four major performing arts institutions in Singapore: Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society (SIFAS), Bhaskar’s Arts Academy, Apsaras Arts and the Temple of Fine Arts (TFA) as well as many other growing independent institutions.

The 208-page hardcover book delivers on its promise of a “bouquet of memories” of artists who recount their personal stories. Spearheaded by the Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society and supported under the Singapore Memory



Greetings on the occasion of India's Republic Day



Singapore Indian Fine Arts Society

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# SIFAS Festival Of Indian Classical Music & Dance 2016

24 March – 10 April 2016

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Madhur Vani - A musical interlude

A Hindustani vocal recital

Sat 26<sup>th</sup> March 2016, 7.30pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Tickets: \$25

## SUDHA RAGUNATHAN

Anahata - Mystical sounds of music

A Carnatic vocal recital

Sat 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2016, 7.30pm

Esplanade Concert Hall

Tickets: \$40, \$25

## MEENAKSHI SRINIVASAN

Sita - Daughter of the Earth

A solo Bharatanatyam recital

Sun 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2016, 8.00pm

Esplanade Theatre

Tickets: \$40, \$25

## LALGUDI GJR KRISHNAN AND

SRIRAM PARASURAM

Swar Samhita - A coming together

A violin jugalbandi

Fri 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 7.30pm

Esplanade Recital Studio

Tickets: \$25

## SURUPA SEN AND

BIJAYINI SATPATHY

Hari Shringara - Songs of love and longing

An Odissi dance performance

Sun 10<sup>th</sup> April 2016, 8.00pm

Esplanade Theatre Studio

Tickets: \$30



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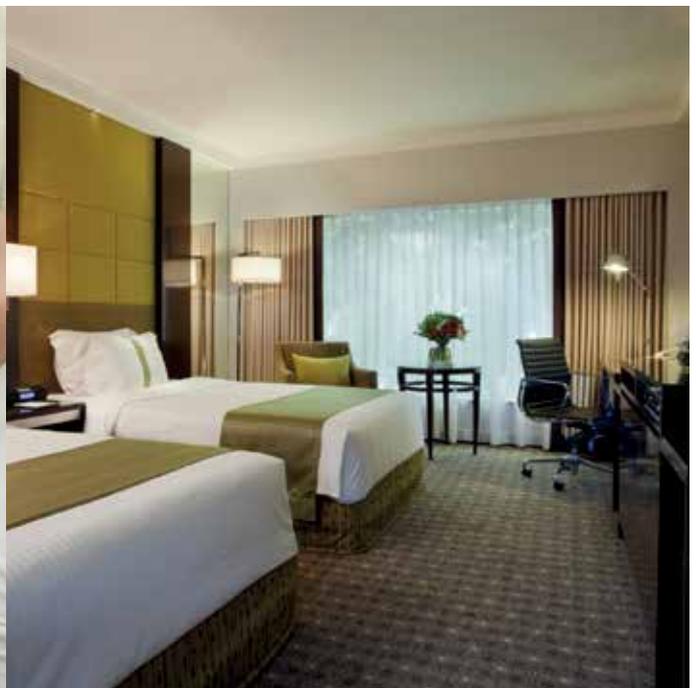
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Project's irememberSG Fund, as part of the Singapore50 (SG50) celebrations, the book masterfully interweaves the memories of all those associated with the Indian arts – artistes, administrators, Government and temple officials and the enablers of the arts - into this narrative, making it a comprehensive history with beautiful anecdotes of the Indian performing arts in Singapore over the last fifty years.

Encapsulating three historical periods, pre-independence (the entire period before 1965), 1965 to 2000, when the arts scene slowly took shape, and 2000 to 2015, which saw rapid growth and development in the Indian arts scene, the book has recorded the evolution of Indian classical music and dance, particularly Carnatic and Hindustani music (vocal and instrumental), and all the major classical dance forms of India, to the extent they were taught or performed in Singapore.

Co-edited by Dr Seshan Ramaswami, faculty member at Singapore Management University and Sarita Alurkar-Sriram, author and arts administrator, the book is a fast read with fascinating insights into how the migrants from pre-independent India managed to keep the culture alive. An interesting and engrossing read, the book is a must-have for any history or arts buff in India and Singapore.



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# Said and Heard....

## Quotes, media bites and extracts related to 50 years of India and Singapore relations



***“As we celebrate the first 50 years, Singapore and India are already looking ahead to the next 50, with the commitment to elevate relations to a Strategic Partnership in 2015. I am confident that our two countries and peoples will continue to grow closer over the year.”***

- Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong's message in the volume "Singapore and India - Towards A Shared Future"

### ***Singapore Eyeing Skill India Collaboration During Narendra Modi Visit***

- *The Indian EXPRESS* headline on 10 November 2015



***“Our journey has so far been wonderful. But, the journey ahead will be special, of renewed spirit and new energy - Naya Utsah, Naya Josh.”***

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi

***“India's commitment to non-communism and non-alignment makes a natural friend of the countries of ASEAN. Singapore has always found India a reliable and steadfast friend.”***

- The late Mr Lee Kuan Yew, *The Straits Times* December 14, 1978



***“India and Singapore, as pluralistic societies in a buoyant region, seek a partnership based on political, economic and cultural cooperation, with institutional frameworks of dialogue and vibrant people-to-people contacts. What is unique about this relationship is that it never rests on its successes; it strives constantly to be ahead of the curve, to be innovative and effective, and to add value and efficiency.”***

- External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj during her introductory visit to Singapore from 15 to 16 August 2014



***“The diverse businesses representation in this delegation is a strong indicator of the business interest in India. Singapore has become one of the preferred countries in the Asia Pacific region for Indian companies to operate from and SBF hopes to help strengthen the business ties between Singapore and India.”***

- Dr D Theyvendran, Chairman of Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and Council Member of Singapore Business Federation, who led a business delegation of 30 members to explore business opportunities in the state of Gujarat



***“While the SCCCI has developed strong ties with China and ASEAN countries, we would like to strengthen our linkages with the dynamic India economic powerhouse under the leadership of Prime Minister Modi. This mission is to develop the business network with the Indian companies as well as to understand their business culture.”***

- Mr Thomas Chua, President of Singapore Chinese Chamber of Commerce & Industry, in a speech in September 2015, announced plans for a SCCCI mission to visit India



***“In January 1994, I was surprised to be invited by PM Rao to visit India as Chief Guest for India’s Republic Day celebrations. It was a signal honour. I had been to India a few times before, but not as Prime Minister. For many members of my delegation, including then-Foreign Minister and Law Minister Prof S Jayakumar, it was also their first official visit to India. India accorded me and my delegation a very warm hospitality. It was a clear signal that India wanted to establish closer ties with Singapore. It was also during this visit that I started to learn more about India.”***

- Mr Goh Chok Tong, then Senior Minister, at the Pravasi Bharatiya Conference, referring to the visit that sparked off the “Mild India Fever”.

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# A Word from the Publisher....



**A**t first an Indian, and now a Singapore citizen, it fills me with pride to spearhead the publishing of this milestone feature on 50 years of relations between these two vibrant nations, both so close to my heart. What a joy to partake in, and contribute to, this historical bonding between two tigers of Asia, a linkage that stretches far back, beyond the half-century of diplomatic relations, going instead all the way to the colonial times or even the ancient eras when belief systems and early maritime trade routes joined these regions.

The pages within the magazine highlight the visit by India's Prime Minister to Singapore, and also that of Singapore's President over to India, both staged in the eventful year that was 2015, a year that leads us to reflect on the fifty years of independence of Singapore, the immediate recognition accorded at the time by India, the fondness, confidence and appreciation that Lee Kuan Yew, Founding Father of modern Singapore, felt for India, and the genuine reciprocation feeling expressed by PM Narendra Modi toward this Island-state and its former leader, just as Singaporeans mourned the passing of Mr Lee during this very same year laden with significance, memories and hopes for the future of our two great nations.

Readers will explore in this magazine the realms of exchanges and the wealth of interactions that brought us together across the eastern half of the Indian Ocean: growing trade in an ever-changing sophistication of products and services; more investment flows and the setting up of offices and projects in both directions; scientific, educational and scholarly academic encounters leading to a deeper and broader universe of knowledge and skills; developmental concerns over the long-term sustainability and welfare of peoples, businesses, urban landscapes, natural environments and cultural outlooks; also, cultural affinities naturally born from family and ethnic ties between both sides, yet now far broader than those; last but not least, insertion into a wider Asian century of stability, prosperity and peace for all.

You will also find a lighter side in our pages, that relates to arts performances and displays, travel, food, therapy and all the other human dimensions that make people tick in both India and Singapore. On this final note, I invite all of you to enjoy the contents and join us in celebrating this magnificent connection binding us throughout the ages - past, present and future!

Finally, we would like to thank HE High Commissioner of India, Singapore Vijay Thakur Singh for entrusting Sun Media Pte Ltd, who has had the honour of serving the High Commission since 1998, with the publication of this commemorative edition.

**Nomita Dhar**  
Publisher & Editor in Chief



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The Global Citizen Forum spearheaded by its Founder Dr BK Modi, wishes all Global Indians in Singapore a very Happy Republic Day. As the two peacekeepers of Asia, let us work to herald a new era of Global Harmony.

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The Global Citizen Forum envisions 'creating One World' a world where barriers of religion are overcome by the Omniscient individual who seeks the knowledge of everything, barriers of nationality are overcome by technology and barriers of gender break before the ultimate objective of creating a values based, sustainable world community.



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