

# **30TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATING ASEAN-INDIA FRIENDSHIP 2022**



**ASEAN and India Partnership Working Towards  
Security and Growth for All in the Region**

**ASEAN-India Friendship Year  
Highlights & Interactions**

**Tourism**

**10 Reasons to Holiday in ASEAN  
Incredibly Diverse India**

Find what you seek in a timeless land of great beauty and diversity of sights, sounds and experiences!

# Incredible India



*India Tourism, Singapore*

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# About the ASEAN-India Logo and Tagline Contest



## DESIGN ELEMENTS AND RATIONALE

**30** **Number 30 and Infinity Symbol**  
Referring to 30th anniversary, consistent with international numbers representing unity and relationship for 30 years. The thickness of number 3 conveys the intensity of the objectives of the ASEAN organization.



**Emblem of ASEAN**  
Symbol of friendship, solidarity, courage, progress, prosperity, peace, and stability.



**Ashok Chakra**  
In the middle of the flag of India, the round Ashok Chakra represents the progress of the country.



**Helping Hands**  
Interactions in helping and taking care of both oneself and others. Relationship and good friendship including cooperation both inside and outside the organization. Communicate within the circle of giving Sustainable Relationship Growth.

The competition was hosted by the Government of India and was open to all citizens of ASEAN Member States (AMS) and India. The winner of the ASEAN-India Logo Design & Tagline was Mr. Bew Thanakron Khumkhrua (Thailand).

A total of 1,254 registrations were received for the competition. The submissions were assessed by a selection committee comprising the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, the Ambassador of India to ASEAN, and the ASEAN Secretariat based on their originality, relevance, adaptability, and aesthetics. The winning entries were chosen based on the strong reflection of the friendship and collective aspirations of ASEAN and India, as well as progress achieved by both sides over three decades.



## Front cover note:

The pearl is the gem symbol for 30th anniversaries and the winning logo looks as if held by a pearlescent textured hand against an actual pearl like a statuette.

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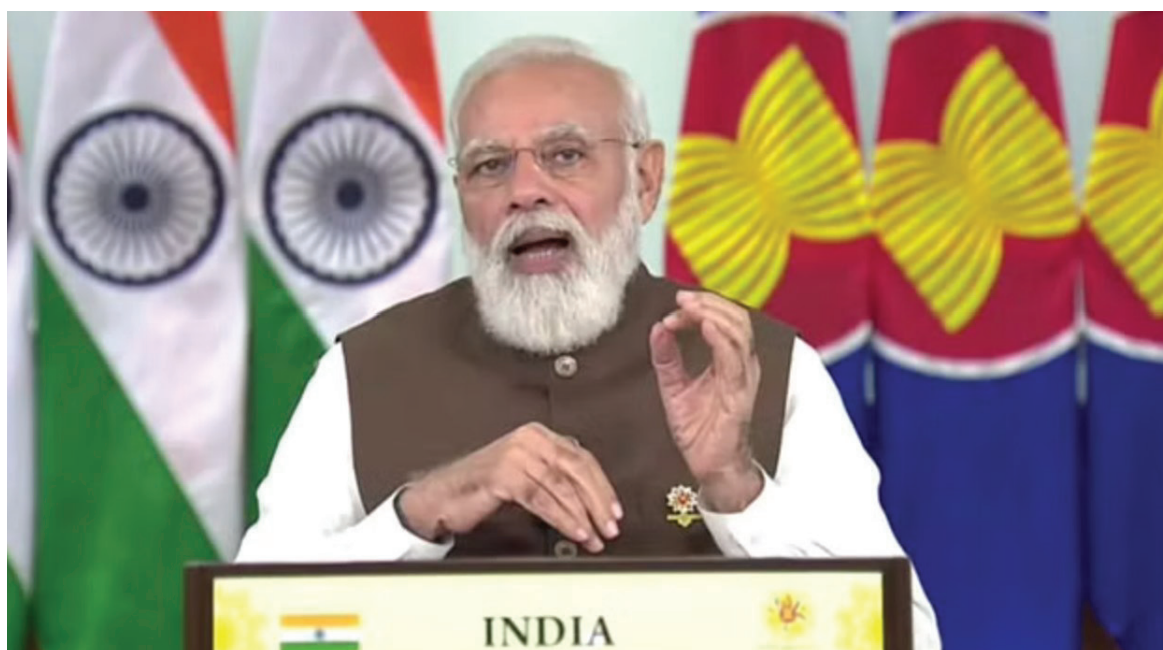
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**ASEAN-India 18th Summit 2021**

# Prime Minister Narendra Modi on ASEAN India Partnership



**T**he year 2022 will mark the completion of 30 years of our partnership. India will also complete seventy-five years of its independence. I am very happy that we will celebrate this important milestone as the 'Year of ASEAN-India Friendship'. India is committed to further strengthen ties under the forthcoming Presidency of Cambodia and our Country Coordinator, Singapore. The unity and centrality of ASEAN has always been an important priority for India. This special role of ASEAN, India's Act East Policy which is contained in our Security and Growth for All in the Region i.e. "SAGAR" policy. India's Indo Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook for the Indo-Pacific are the framework for our shared vision and mutual cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region."

**"History is witness that India and ASEAN have had vibrant relations for thousands of years. Shades of that are visible in our shared values, traditions, languages, texts, architecture, culture, food and, therefore, the unity and centrality of ASEAN have always been an important priority for India."**

**- PM Narendra Modi  
remarks at the 18th  
India-ASEAN Summit  
on 28th October 2021**

**Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting New Delhi**

# India **Supports** a Strong and Prosperous ASEAN



**“A better-connected India and ASEAN would be well-positioned to promote decentralised globalisation and resilient and reliable supply chains that are needed by the international community. It is important that we identify a new set of priorities while ensuring the early realisation of our ongoing initiatives.”**

**- Indian External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting, New Delhi**

India hosted the special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) on 16th June 2022 in New Delhi to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations. The SAIFMM was co-chaired by India's External Affairs Minister (EAM), Dr S. Jaishankar, and his counterpart Dr Vivian Balakrishnan.

In his opening remarks EAM Jaishankar emphasized the following: India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN, one whose centrality in the Indo-Pacific fully recognised. The strong convergence of the AOIP and the IPOI is a testimony to our shared vision for the region. ASEAN-India ties, anchored in history and nurtured by a common ethos have withstood the test of time and indeed, grown stronger with each passing decade.

The Meeting reviewed the status of the ASEAN-India Partnership and set out the path for the coming decade.

The ASEAN Foreign Ministers and ASEAN Secretary General also called on Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi. The Prime Minister tweeted: “Had a good interaction with Foreign Ministers and Representatives of ASEAN countries as we celebrate 30 years of close India-ASEAN cooperation.”

19th ASEAN-India Summit Phnom Penh

# ASEAN and India Partnership Elevated to Even **Higher** Level



**V**ice President Jagdeep Dhankhar led the Indian delegation, which included India's External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, to the Commemorative Summit on 12th November 2022 at Phnom Penh, Cambodia. ASEAN and India elevated their Strategic Partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The further elevation of ties focused on interacting in several specific areas:

- Maritime security
- Joint implementation of projects in the Indo-Pacific
- Cybersecurity and inter-operability of digital financial systems
- New technologies for sustainable development
- Revival of tourism
- Joint efforts to promote peace and stability across the region.

**“We agreed to establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) between ASEAN and India that is meaningful, substantive and mutually beneficial through the adoption of the Joint Statement on ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.”**

*- Chairman's Statement at the 19th ASEAN-India Summit*

# Message

## SIMON WONG



HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
SINGAPORE IN INDIA

**\*India Act East Policy footnote:**  
*Singapore is the Country Coordinator  
for India since August 2021*

This year marks the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue relations, and is being warmly celebrated as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year. There is much to be proud of over the past three decades, as ASEAN and India have steadily expanded our cooperation in areas such as trade and investment, connectivity, and maritime security, as well as new areas such as FinTech, cybersecurity, sustainability, and the Digital Economy. We have faced multiple global challenges together as steadfast friends, particularly over the last two and a half years of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is a demonstration of the natural partnership that India and ASEAN have always enjoyed, and is underpinned by thousands of years of deep civilisational linkages, strong people-to-people ties, and comprehensive economic cooperation.

However, the world today still faces an evolving geopolitical and economic environment punctuated with uncertainties exacerbated by the conflict in Ukraine, disruptions to critical supplies of food and energy which have contributed to rising inflation, and the looming spectre of climate change. Asia itself has undergone a dramatic transformation in terms of its role in the world, with China and India cementing their positions as leaders not only in terms of economic growth and development, but also as critical components of global supply chains. Looking ahead, the ASEAN-India partnership will have a critical role to play in maintaining and strengthening the linkages in our global community, and underpinning cooperation towards building a more resilient and sustainable future.

First, economically, trade and investment flows between ASEAN and India have not only held strong but grown despite the pandemic, and there remains a huge amount of room for growth. Work is underway to review our existing trade, investment, and connectivity agreements, including the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods

Agreement, to maximise their latent potential for mutually beneficial growth. These vital supporting infrastructures will continue to be updated and must adapt as ASEAN and India grow into their full potential as economic powerhouses in the region.

Second, India and ASEAN share a keen interest in maintaining and strengthening the open, inclusive, and rules-based regional architecture. Platforms such as the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) and regular exchanges including the upcoming ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise are key initiatives that demonstrate commitment on both sides towards this goal. The ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region, adopted in October 2021, also highlights the importance of ASEAN Centrality and the need to work together to ensure the peace, stability, and prosperity of our region.

Finally, ASEAN and India are both well-placed to take advantage of the digital revolution and leverage new technologies to facilitate sustainable growth, while working together to address emerging challenges including climate change and future health emergencies. Initiatives such as the ASEAN-India Hackathon 2021 and the ASEAN-India Track 1.5 Dialogue on Cyber Issues are just a few of the nascent steps forward on this front, and we need to work closely together to build on this initial momentum, including by developing deeper linkages and expanding exchanges between ASEAN and India's vibrant start-up and innovation ecosystems.

I believe that there is much work to be done to bring the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership to greater heights, but this is a function of how much we have already achieved together, and how much potential we have left to fulfil. I am confident that our friendship is equal to the task, and that the next decade will see a new and exciting chapter in ASEAN-India cooperation.

# Message

## JAYANT KHOBRADE



AMBASSADOR OF INDIA  
TO ASEAN

It gives me great pleasure to write this message representing India as ASEAN's Comprehensive Strategic Partner. Since, 1992, 30 years down the lane, the ASEAN has become heart of the Indo-Pacific. No other region probably is as much discussed, constructively, as Indo-Pacific these days, not only from the geopolitical perspective but also from the perspective of the prime mover of the economic growth for the world.

While the world might have started focusing on this region of late, India has the added advantage of its historical linkages, in its ancient, medieval and modern history. This is reflected in our shared values, traditions, languages, texts, architecture, culture and cuisine.

The relationship matured in stages – it went from sectoral dialogue partnership to full dialogue; then the Summit level partnership becoming Strategic and now the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. When we talk about India making a qualitative shift from the 'Look East' to 'Act East' Policy, under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi and subsequently announcing and synergizing its Indo-Pacific initiative with that of ASEAN's Outlook, it also been done in harmony with other regional initiatives such as Security and Growth for All in the Region, popularly known as SAGAR. While doing so India has always recognized and upheld ASEAN centrality in the evolving regional architecture. India's External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar has described ASEAN as "the region which always stood tall as a beacon of regionalism, multilateralism and globalization".

While India has been expressing itself through the policy pronouncements, on the ground that is getting reflected in our increased interaction with the region. A few facts and figures can illustrate how ASEAN remains the center of focus for India both at the level of government and the people. Our trade for the last financial year (April '21 to March '22) has crossed USD 110 billion. Cumulative FDI into India from ASEAN since 2000 has been USD 132 billion, which is 22 per cent of India's total inbound investment. Similarly India's investment into ASEAN since 2000 has been 21 per cent of India's total outbound investment. Around 18 per cent of India's outbound tourists visited beautiful ASEAN countries in 2019. India has a 15 per cent strong Indian Diaspora in this region, who acts as a natural bridge between us. We get 8 per cent of inbound tourists from ASEAN and we hope that this will only increase over time.

As we have become the Comprehensive Strategic Partner of ASEAN, we look forward to deepen our ties in five broad areas: firstly maritime security; secondly cyber security, fintech and digital economy; thirdly sustainable development, smart cities etc.; fourthly tourism and people-to-people connectivity; and finally regional and global issues of common concern.

I must also say here that we enjoy excellent bilateral relations individually with all ASEAN Member States.

I would like to express my deep gratitude to the Sun Media publication team and especially its Editor-in-Chief Ms. Nomita Dhar for bringing out this substantial and beautiful issue.

# ASEAN-India Friendship Year 2022 Highlights



**During this year ASEAN and India reaffirmed their commitment to bring their Strategic Partnership to greater heights. Many events were held over this period and we bring you some highlights of the key events**

The activities started with a Commemorative Reception on 4th March 2022 that kicked off the commemoration of Friendship Year. It was followed up by the 22nd ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meeting held on 23rd March 2022 at the ASEAN Secretariat where the Plan of Action was discussed.

During the meeting several programmes were planned to mark the momentous occasion. The meeting took note of the overall progress in implementing the ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021- 2025).

Both sides reiterated their commitment to effectively continue the implementation of the Plan of Action to ensure the depth and breadth of the engagement between ASEAN and India that benefits the people of both sides.

Both sides have established an ASEAN-India Project Management Unit at the ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta, as part of the efforts to strengthen effective utilisation, management and

execution of the joint programmes/projects funded through ASEAN-India Fund and the ASEAN-India Green Fund.

The meeting commended India's active participation and contribution to supporting the ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, particularly the ASEAN-led mechanisms. It underscored the importance of the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region, which was adopted by the Leaders at the 18th ASEAN-India Summit in October last year.

Further, the meeting expressed the hope that the ongoing review of the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) will result in a mutually beneficial outcome, to harness the full potential of bilateral trade, as it serves as one of the primary trade frameworks connecting

ASEAN and India. The meeting also appreciated India's key role in the undertaking of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project which would be extended into Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The extension would pave the way for ASEAN-India transport links and trade relations and enhance bilateral connectivity.

The meeting appreciated India's US\$ 1 million contribution to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund, as well as for its in-kind contribution, particularly humanitarian relief items that were delivered to Myanmar through the AHA Centre in November 2021.

Both sides exchanged views on possible collaboration on mutual recognition of COVID-19 vaccination certificates, addressing long-term impact of the pandemic on the mental health, as well as post-pandemic economic recovery, including on maintaining the global supply chain.

# Interactions

## ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Delegation's Visit to India

**“The meeting also appreciated India’s key role in the undertaking of the India-Myanmar-Thailand Trilateral Highway Project which would be extended into Cambodia, Laos and Vietnam. The extension would pave the way for ASEAN-India transport links and trade relations and enhance bilateral connectivity”**



The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) delegation was led by Mr. Kittisethabindit Cheamyeap, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia

They deliberated on several initiatives for enhancing cooperation in various areas of mutual benefits, such as combatting transnational crime; maritime security; trade and investment, energy, finance, science, technology, digital economy/4th Industrial Revolution, and Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

Other areas such as tourism, education, sustainable development, biodiversity, climate change, Blue economy, smart cities, Technical and Vocational Education Training (TVET), disaster management, public health, women empowerment, people-to-people contacts, connectivity, and narrowing development gap in ASEAN were also discussed.

Permanent Representative of Singapore to ASEAN Kok Li Peng and Ambassador of India to ASEAN Jayant N Khobragade co-chaired the 22nd AIJCC Meeting. In attendance were the members of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN, the ASEAN Secretariat and their respective delegations.

● The ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) delegation visited India from 10th to 14th August 2022 at the invitation of the Hon’ble Speaker, Lok Sabha and the Chairman, Rajya Sabha. The AIPA delegation’s second visit came on the occasion of commemorating the establishment of 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. The delegation was led by Mr. Kittisethabindit Cheamyeap, First Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia, on behalf of the 43rd AIPA President, Mr. Samdech Akka Moha Ponhea Chakrei Heng Samrin, and consisted of 11 parliamentarians from AIPA Member Parliaments.

The programme for the visit included paying homage to the Father of the Nation ‘Mahatma Gandhi’ at Rajghat. The AIPA delegation then called on Minister of External Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar and the Indian Vice President and the Chairman of

Rajya Sabha, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. Delegation level talks were held with Deputy Chairman of Rajya Sabha Shri Harivansh. Shri Harivansh also hosted a banquet in the honour of visiting delegation.

Discussions during the various calls by the AIPA delegation took note of the ground covered by the ASEAN-India Dialogue Partnership over the last 30 years and the important role that it has in the continuing stability and development of the region and to economic growth and prosperity.

It was affirmed that the engagement of ASEAN and India is comprehensive covering all the three pillars of ASEAN. The interaction during the visit were productive and mutual, overlaying common concerns of both sides including promotion of democracy and parliamentary diplomacy, as well as the intention to further deepen the relationship with frequent parliamentary exchanges and dialogue.

## 24th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting

● The 24th ASEAN-India Senior Officials' Meeting was held on June 15, 2022 in New Delhi. From India's side the meeting was co-chaired by Secretary (East), Shri Saurabh Kumar and from Singapore, Permanent Secretary Mr. Albert Chua. The Meeting saw the participation of Senior Officials from other ASEAN Member States.

The officials reviewed the ASEAN-India strategic partnership and its future direction. The leaders made their assessment on the progress of cooperation under all three pillars of Partnership – political-security, economic and socio-cultural. The Meeting also deliberated on the steps for further implementation of ASEAN-India Plan of Action (2021-2025). The two sides also exchanged views on regional and international issues of mutual interest including COVID-19 pandemic and post-pandemic recovery.

Secretary (East) welcomed the positive contributions and continued support of Singapore in strengthening ASEAN-India Relations as the Country Coordinator. Underlining the centrality of ASEAN in India's vision of the Indo-Pacific, he emphasized the implementation of ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) to strengthen the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The ASEAN side appreciated India's support to ASEAN and ASEAN-led architecture in the region.

The two sides also took stock of calendar of activities to celebrate the year 2022 as ASEAN-India Friendship Year to mark the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India Partnership. The strong historical and cultural ties between India and ASEAN continue to provide the solid foundation for ASEAN-India partnership as it enters its fourth decade.



## 7th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) in Phnom Penh and New Delhi



CICP and the ASEAN-India Center (AIC) co-organized the 7th Roundtable of ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) in Phnom Penh and New Delhi, and via Webex.

● The 7th Roundtable of the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) was organised successfully on 12 – 13 May, 2022 by the ASEAN-India Center at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi in collaboration with the Cambodian Institute for Cooperation and Peace (CICP), Phnom Penh in hybrid mode. The roundtable, a regular event, is aimed at enabling academic community and think tanks in ASEAN and India to come together on a common platform for exchanging views on issues of mutual interest.

H.E. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education, Government of Republic of India and H.E. Mr. KUNG Phoak, Secretary of State of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & International Cooperation, Kingdom of Cambodia graced the occasion.

In his inaugural address Honourable Minister of State touched upon the broad

contours of ASEAN-India relations and underlined the three prominent areas of Health Security, Digital Economy and Green & Sustainable Development to focus upon.

Think tanks and academia from all ASEAN Member States and India deliberated upon various aspects in the sessions on Economic and Sustainable Recovery; Cooperation in Health; SDG Implementation and MSMEs (Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises) Participation; Connectivity and Supply Chain Response; and Way Forward: Towards the third decade Onward of ASEAN-India Partnership.

H.E. Mr. Jayant N. Khobragade, Ambassador of India to ASEAN, underlined the importance in the Valedictory Address of Think Tanks as prime mover of thoughts and ideas and that by working together we can go far.

## Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting and related events



The Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Celebration of the 30th Anniversary of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations

● India hosted the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (SAIFMM) on 16-17 June 2022 to mark the 30th anniversary of our dialogue relations and the 10th anniversary of our Strategic Partnership with ASEAN. External Affairs Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar and H.E. Mr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Foreign Minister of the Republic of Singapore, India's Country Coordinator, co-chaired the meeting. Foreign Ministers of other ASEAN Member States and ASEAN Secretary General also participated in the SAIFMM.

ASEAN-India dialogue relations started with the establishment of sectoral partnership in 1992 which graduated to full:

- Dialogue Partnership in December 1995
- Summit level Partnership in 2002, and
- Strategic Partnership in 2012.

Today, ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership stands on a strong foundation. ASEAN is central to India's Act East Policy and its vision for the wider Indo-Pacific. This multi-faceted partnership encompasses many sectoral dialogue mechanisms and working groups that meet regularly at various levels and include annual Summit, Ministerial and Senior Officials' meetings. The ongoing India-

ASEAN collaboration is guided by the Plan of Action 2021-2025 which was adopted in 2020.

While ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), hosted by ASEAN Chair, is an annual event, the SAIFMM was the first ASEAN-India FMM hosted by India in New Delhi. The SAIFMM was accompanied by the 12th edition of Delhi Dialogue, a premier Track 1.5 Dialogue in the ASEAN-India calendar, was hosted by India on 16-17 June 2022. The theme

of DD-XII was Building Bridges in the Indo-Pacific. The Ministerial Session of DD-XII was attended by EAM and the ASEAN Ministers.

## Visit of Minister of State for External Affairs, Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh to Jakarta, Indonesia

● Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs and Education (MoS) paid an official visit to ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta Indonesia from 28-30 August 2022. This was his first visit to ASEAN Secretariat as well as to Indonesia. During the visit, in addition to engagements with ASEAN Secretariat, the MoS also had engagements to strengthen bilateral relations with Indonesia.

On 29 August, MoS and the Secretary General of ASEAN, H.E. Mr. Lim Jock Hoi jointly inaugurated the ASEAN-India Network of Universities (AINU). AINU was announced by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit in 2018, as a



Launch of ASEAN-India Network of Universities with Dr Rajkumar Rajnan Singh with Secretary General of ASEAN Dato Lim Jock Hoi

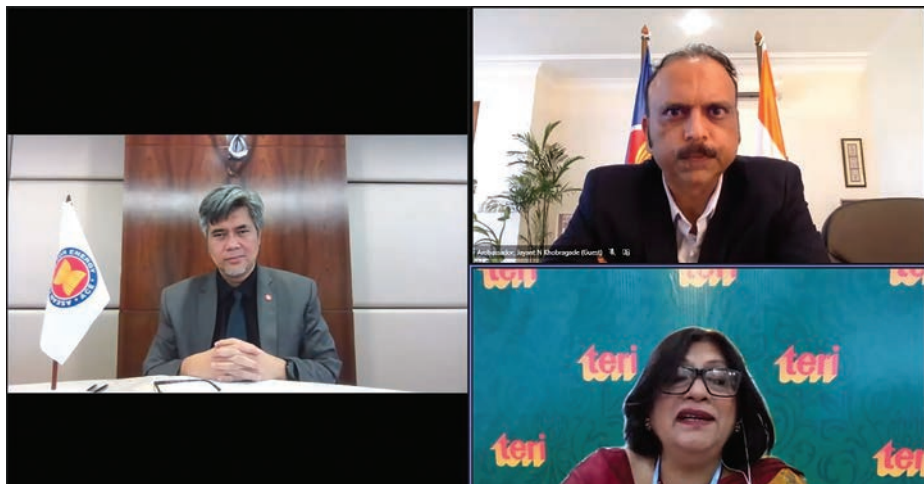
consortium of premier institutes from India and ASEAN that would build a core network of knowledge capital in the region. AINU is being spearheaded by Nalanda University and ASEAN University Network from India and ASEAN, respectively.

MoS held discussions with Secretary General of ASEAN on strengthening ASEAN-India relations including enhancing educational exchanges, strengthening trade, tourism and people-to-people connectivity and taking forward the ASEAN-India Partnership.

Further, during his interactions with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to ASEAN (CPR), MoS exchanged views on areas of focus in the near future to elevate the ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. MoS also held informal interactions with various ASEAN institutions including, ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) Secretariat, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE), ASEAN Foundation and ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre), and discussed their ongoing cooperation with India and ways ahead for formalising the institutional linkages with them.

## Signing of MoU between The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and The Energy Resource Institute (TERI)

● During this celebration year a special MoU signing ceremony was held to promote energy security. The MoU was signed between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and the Energy Resource Institute (TERI) 09 November, 2022. The clean and renewable energy sectors remain one of the priority



Indian Mission to ASEAN facilitated virtual MoU signing ceremony between The ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and The Energy Resource Institute (TERI).

areas under the ASEAN-India Plan of Action 2021-25 and the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi introduced 'Lifestyle for the Environment (LiFE)' at the COP26 at Glasgow on 1st November 2021, while calling upon the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards "mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption" to protect and preserve the environment. LiFE is aimed to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely the 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Keeping above in view, the Indian Mission to ASEAN facilitated the signing of the MoU to strengthen institutional linkages between ASEAN and India. Mr. Nuki Agya Utama, Executive Director, ACE and Dr Vibha Dhawan, Director General, TERI, signed the MoU on behalf of their respective institution.

On this occasion, Ambassador of India to ASEAN H.E. Mr. Jayant Khobragade encouraged ACE and TERI for further cooperation and underlined that the MoU can enable institutions to work towards a cleaner and greener planet.

Quoting H.E. Mr. R.K. Singh, Minister for Power and New and Renewable Energy, the Ambassador emphasized that: "India and ASEAN can work together to develop an entire ecosystem for renewables that promotes knowledge sharing, capacity building and technical assistance".

## Visit of Vice President of India to Cambodia

● The Hon'ble Vice President of India Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar paid a successful and productive visit to Cambodia from 11-13 November 2022. During the visit he attended the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit on 12th November 2022. The Summit was historic as it elevated the ASEAN-India relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. A Joint Statement spelling out the elements of the Comprehensive Strategic



Partnership was issued.

The Hon'ble Vice President also attended the 17th East Asia Summit on 13 November 2022. During the Summit he highlighted the importance of EAS as the premier leaders-led forum in the region and emphasised on its further strengthening to make it more adaptive, resilient and dynamic. He underlined that EAS is an important platform to promote a free, open, inclusive, and rules-based Indo-Pacific with the freedom of navigation and overflight. Reiterating India's commitment to ASEAN centrality in Indo-Pacific, he called for greater cooperation by building on the convergences of AOIP with IPOI, and highlighted India's activities to take forward EAS agenda in maritime security, HADR, and sustainable development of marine resources. Hon'ble Vice President underlined the growing food and energy security that extends beyond EAS and Indo-Pacific, and called for the EAS members' full contribution to the International year of Millets in 2023.

During the visit, the Hon'ble Vice President also had meetings with the



Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar visited Cambodia at the 19th ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit & 17th East Asia Summit.

Cambodian King, the Prime Minister and the President of the Senate. In all meetings the Cambodian Leadership appreciated India's support for the country including in their times of difficulty.

In the presence of Hon'ble Vice President and Prime Minister Hunsen three MOUs and one Financing arrangement, related to cooperation in the areas of Culture, Biodiversity and Health were exchanged.

Hon'ble Vice President announced an assistance of US\$426,000 for demining of three districts and one commune in Cambodia, and increased the ITEC slots for the country from 200 to 250 and ICCR scholarships from 30 to 50.

Hon'ble Vice President visited the heritage sites of Ta Prohm Temple and Angkor Wat Temple in Siem Reap and examined the restoration and conservation work carried out by the Archaeological Survey of India, at these cultural heritage sites.

He inaugurated the Hall of Dancers at the Ta Prohm Temple. The conservation and restoration of Ta Prohm is a partnership project of the Archaeological Survey of India and the APSARA (Authority for the Protection and Management of Angkor and the Region of Siem Reap) and is being carried out since 2011. India is currently undertaking the 3rd phase of restoration and preservation work.

Angkor Wat Temple Complex is a UNESCO World Heritage. India undertook the restoration and preservation of Angkor Wat from 1986-1993 at a total cost of US\$ 4 million through one of the most difficult periods of contemporary history of Cambodia.

The visit of Hon'ble Vice President of India served to reaffirm our close ties with the ASEAN Member States, in particular with Cambodia.

# Message

## UNG SEAN



AMBASSADOR OF  
CAMBODIA IN INDIA

It is indeed a great honour for the Royal Embassy of Cambodia in India to learn that Sun Media Private Limited, Singapore, is bringing out a special issue on ASEAN-India relations, as we celebrate ASEAN-India Friendship Year to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Partnership.

During the special meeting held in June 2022 in New Delhi, the Foreign Ministers of ASEAN and India recognized many achievements made in the past 30 years' of fruitful cooperation and reaffirmed their shared commitment to further deepening ASEAN-India broad based strategic partnership for peace and prosperity in the region.

In the context of India's Act East Policy and the ASEAN, Cambodia is an important interlocutor and partner. Cambodia and India enjoy long lasting relations of friendship and cooperation. This year also celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Cambodia-India diplomatic relations.

When it comes to diplomatic relations, both sides are committed to coordinating and promoting business as well as investment activities to further boost economic and trade growth in all sectors of mutual benefit. I am of the firm belief that Sun Media Private Limited will send out this important message for their readers in the region.

**“In the context of India’s Act East Policy and the ASEAN, Cambodia is an important interlocutor and partner. Cambodia and India enjoy long lasting relations of friendship and cooperation. This year also celebrated the 70th Anniversary of Cambodia-India diplomatic relations.”**

# Message

## INA HAGNINGTYAS KRISNAMURTHI



AMBASSADOR OF  
INDONESIA IN INDIA

This year 2022 marks another milestone for the ASEAN-India relationship, as we enter the fourth decade of the cooperation. Over the past 30 years, ASEAN and India have built a strong partnership. We can now witness that ASEAN and India relations, with a total population of over 2 billion people, combined GDP of US\$6.8 trillion, and total trade amounting to US\$110 billion, have a promising prospect.

Starting from just a sectoral dialogue partner in 1992, today ASEAN and India enjoy a multi-faceted cooperation which spreads across three ASEAN's pillars, and it is envisaged that India will become a Comprehensive Strategic Partner of ASEAN.

Appreciation should be given to India's Act East Policy which was launched in 2014, that gave increased momentum to this partnership. India's active participation and contribution to supporting the ASEAN Centrality in the evolving regional architecture, particularly the ASEAN-led mechanisms are truly commended. Both sides acknowledge the importance of the implementation of the ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific for Peace, Stability, and Prosperity in the Region,

which was adopted by the Leaders at the 18th ASEAN-India Summit in October last year.

India, as a true partner for ASEAN, could be seen, among others, in the context of global pandemic by contributing US\$1 million to the COVID-19 ASEAN Response Fund and US\$200,000 worth of in-kind contributions of COVID-19 related relief items using the ASEAN-India Fund.

With the 30 years of strong relations, ASEAN and India must set higher ambitions and deepen this cooperation. Several fields of cooperation that could be explored, among others are health, food and energy security, as well as digital transformation. In fact, all these fields are also in line with the priority issues under Indonesia's Presidency for the G20.

In the wider context, ASEAN and India as partners must continue to maintain a conducive environment for peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region to achieve the development and prosperity as both sides envisioned.

Indonesia, as the upcoming Chair of ASEAN in 2023, looks forward to strengthening the partnership between India and ASEAN for the benefit of our people and the two regions.

# Message

## DATUK HIDAYAT ABDUL HAMID



HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
MALAYSIA IN INDIA

India has always been an important ASEAN Dialogue Partner since 1996. India was ASEAN's sixth largest trading partner after China, the USA, the EU, Japan, and the Republic of Korea. Over the years, trade between ASEAN and India has increased tremendously.

The Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi on 16 June 2022 was one of the momentous events held to commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations.

With the reopening of our international borders, ASEAN and India can resume and further explore meaningful engagements that would promote progress and mutual prosperity. India will continue to be an essential trading partner to ASEAN and we need to further enhance this relationship to ensure the strong partnership between ASEAN and India.

Malaysia and India could enhance these relations to a greater height and look forward to forging new multifaceted cooperation through ASEAN-India regional cooperation that would bring mutual benefit to all.

**“Malaysia and India could enhance these relations to a greater height and look forward to forging new multifaceted cooperation through ASEAN-India regional cooperation that would bring mutual benefit to all.”** “

# Message

## MOE KYAW AUNG



AMBASSADOR OF  
MYANMAR IN INDIA

It is delightful to note that Sun Media Private Limited, Singapore will bring out a Special Issue on ASEAN-India relations as we celebrate ASEAN-India Friendship Year to commemorate 30 years of ASEAN-India Partnership.

I have learnt that India has been focusing on a strengthened and multi-faceted relationship with ASEAN politically and economically. India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of the foundation of India's Act East Policy and its foreign policy.

India is working on several connectivity projects, which will link India via the Northeastern part to Southeast Asia. Once these connectivity projects become operational, it will not only reduce the physical distance between India and ASEAN, but also boost both trade and people-to-people connections between the two sides. Myanmar is not only the gateway to the ASEAN region but also the only Member State of ASEAN adjoining India with both land and maritime borderlines. Myanmar and India have been cooperating with the spirit of good neighbourliness and time-tested friendly relations under the regional and multilateral frameworks.

I would like to applaud the persistent efforts of Sun Media Private Limited to bring out a comprehensive magazine for the readers of the region.

I wish the Special Issue on ASEAN-India relations a great success!

**“I have learnt that India has been focusing on a strengthened and multi-faceted relationship with ASEAN politically and economically. India's relationship with ASEAN is a key pillar of the foundation of 'Act East Policy' and its foreign policy.”**

# Message

## JOHN BOITTE SANTOS



### CHARGE' D' AFFAIRES OF THE PHILIPPINES EMBASSY IN INDIA

**T**he COVID-19 pandemic has significantly affected economies and societies and will permanently reshape our world as it continues to unfold. However, as the threat of COVID-19 seems to be nearing its end, there is more room to reflect on the gains and losses of the past three years or so, and therefore learn from the lessons of the past.

ASEAN and India in particular have viewed the crisis as an opportunity for closer ties. India is an important trading partner and one of the centers of economic activity in the region and the Philippines in particular is a strategic partner in South East Asia for India's investments and expansion of its research and development, as well as IT industries given its growing strength in innovation.

In this trying time of international disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there is a need for closer dialogue and cooperation between ASEAN and India to adequately respond to the ramifications of COVID, and adjust to the so-called "new normal" in international trade.

The Philippines has the capacity to become the Regional Headquarters of the Association of South East Asian Nations

(ASEAN) in the fields of Pharmaceuticals and Information Technology. The Philippines possesses several competitive advantages such as quality manpower and resources; strategic business location; liberalized and business-friendly economy; developing infrastructure for global growth.

Following the 20th ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee (AIJCC) Meeting in June 2020 as well as the 5th Joint Commission on Bilateral Cooperation in November 2020, the Philippines and ASEAN are indeed keen to pursue deeper trade and investment relations with India under the bilateral track. Both sides are reviewing ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) to entrench its strategic economic partnership.

The COVID-19 pandemic has been creating new paradigms, collaborative responses, and economic recovery plans for both the ASEAN and India. With high hopes, may ASEAN and India relations be more extensive, cooperative, and collaborative as we see the finish line in the fight against this international health crisis and embrace opportunities of mutual interest. As we look to the future, may we ever be more mindful about the lessons of the past.

# Message

## DEVYANI KHOBRAKAR



AMBASSADOR OF INDIA  
TO CAMBODIA

**G**reetings on the celebration of 30 years of ASEAN-India Partnership. Ever since India announced its Look East Policy in 1991, it has been working on its Act East Policy to revitalise and strengthen its ties with the ASEAN countries.

This interim period has been constructively put to use by consolidating economic engagement with escalating trade and investment, tourism and undertaking collaborative projects in the fields of science and technology in the region.

The India-Cambodia connection is rooted in almost 2000 years of deep civilizational and cultural interfaces. In the contemporary context, Cambodia and India established diplomatic relations in May 1952. Both our nations are celebrating their 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations this year (2022). The closeness of the two countries was forged afresh at the time when India had its first ASEAN-India Summit in Phnom Penh in 2012. These intervening years have witnessed Cambodia's burgeoning role in expanding India's interactions with the nations in the ASEAN region.

The recent pandemic scenario has created new avenues of cooperation as both India and Cambodia together stepped up their ongoing engagement on a humanitarian footing to face its unprecedented challenges.

There are bountiful reasons for both countries to seek stronger ties with

each other as our relationship has been driven by mutual regard and respect, thanks to this unfettered historical and cultural connection down the ages. This goodwill has also been translated into steady economic and commercial relations between our countries. As one of the region's fastest growing economies, Cambodia has much to contribute in this area. India, on the other hand, is among Cambodia's top 10 foreign investors and offers a massive market of 1.3 billion people for a much needed diversification of Cambodia's exports.

A slew of Agreements and MoUs have been signed between our two countries spanning the areas of bilateral cooperation, trade and commerce,, capacity building, investment, training, science and technology, defense cooperation – in particular the de-mining and peacekeeping operations, humanitarian relief, concessional loans for developmental projects and restoration and conservation of old temples in Cambodia. The regular interactions of our political leaders, trade and business interfaces and cultural exchanges continue to further cement this robust relationship.

As India seeks to improve the level of partnership with key Asian countries – and as Cambodia took the role as ASEAN Chair for 2022, both our countries have forged ahead with great vigour in underpinning their roles towards greater engagements with the ASEAN region.

# Message

## MANOJ KUMAR BHARTI



AMBASSADOR OF INDIA  
TO INDONESIA &  
TIMOR LESTE

**A**s Indonesia is one of the founding members of ASEAN and its Secretariat being permanently based in Jakarta makes it indeed an important member. The Bilateral relationship between India and Indonesia has grown from strength to strength since the visit of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Indonesia in 2018 as both the countries elevated their cooperation to the level of Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP). Our Shared Vision of India-Indonesia Maritime Cooperation in the Indo-Pacific is an amalgamation of India's concept of SAGAR – "Security and Growth for All in the Region" and Indonesia's "Global Maritime Fulcrum" concept.

The Leaders of our two countries share a very warm relationship. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi and Hon'ble President of Indonesia, Mr Joko Widodo met on 27th June 2022, on the sidelines of the G7 Summit, and exchanged views on issues of common interest. Just a few days before their meeting, Foreign Minister H.E Ms Retno Marsudi was in India (15-17 June 2022) to attend the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting which commemorated the 30 years of India-ASEAN Partnership. During this visit, Foreign Minister Marsudi also co-chaired the 7th Joint Commission Meeting with Hon'ble External Affairs Minister of India, Dr S Jaishankar, and reviewed the entire gamut of India-Indonesia bilateral cooperation.

The bilateral relationship has spanned across all sectors including Space, defence, education, science, technology, health, culture, and maritime security. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our bilateral

cooperation has taken several positive strides even during testing times. The professional and training exchanges between the Armed Forces are robust and there is now a growing interest in cooperation between our defence industries which has the potential to explore avenues of joint production. The two countries are also working together to further deepen their cooperation in the Space sector, which is over two decades old.

The bilateral trade has increased from US\$ 4.3 billion in 2005-06 to US\$ 26 Billion in 2021-22. Both the countries have set an ambitious target of achieving US\$50 Billion bilateral trade by 2025. Realising the bilateral potential, both the countries are considering to establish joint production of pharmaceutical drugs. India has enhanced its investment in the infrastructure sector. India's renowned company GMR is building the international airport at Kualanamu International Airport at Medan, Indonesia. The Indian company Ion Exchange has developed a number of big civic projects in Indonesia.

The assumption of the ASEAN Chair by Indonesia in 2023 is a significant development for India as it provides an opportunity to strengthen bilateral as well as multilateral relations. The issue of food and energy security has emerged as one of the major concerns post the COVID-19 pandemic. As developing countries, both India and Indonesia share similar concerns and perspectives. The culmination of 30 years of ASEAN-India Partnership strengthens our common belief in ASEAN's Unity and Centrality and our commitment of peace and prosperity in the region.

# Message

## KUMARAN PERIASAMY



HIGH COMMISSIONER OF  
INDIA TO SINGAPORE

**T**his year, India celebrates a historic milestone of its 75th year as an independent nation. 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' is not just a celebration of 75 years of independence, but also a time to take stock of what needs to be done in the next 25 years – the Amrit Kaal – to fulfil our enormous potential, and instil new hope and vigour in the people of India, to propel them energetically towards this goal.

Today India is the fifth largest world economy in terms of GDP and the third largest in PPP terms. India is expected to continue to be one of the world's fastest-growing economies, and a prominent engine of global growth, over the next decade. It will make India one of the most important long-term growth markets for multinationals in a wide range of sectors, including manufacturing industries such as automobiles, electronics and chemicals, and services industries such as banking, insurance, asset management, healthcare and information technology. The digital transformation of India that is currently underway is expected to accelerate the growth of e-commerce, and changing the retail consumer market landscape over the next decade.

In this remarkable growth and development story of India, Singapore is an important partner. India and Singapore have a deep historical connection and continue to be closely linked in many

areas. The long and unique history of people-to-people connections is what contributes towards the vitality of our bilateral economic and political relationship. Our political leadership is closely aligned in its thinking, as we look at Singapore as a springboard for our ASEAN strategy and work closely to enhance our trade and investment partnership. Singapore's financial hub status, high levels of success in developing vocational skills and knowledge of the ASEAN market, combined with India's long-term growth prospects, land availability, and a large and young workforce willing to work at affordable wages, offers complementarity that can be exploited for mutual benefit. There are a number of areas such as research and innovation, IT, cybersecurity, fintech, artificial intelligence, logistics, smart city solutions, skill development, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals and vaccines that offer huge opportunities for partnership. The exciting start-up environments in India and Singapore are also actively engaging with each other.

As we celebrate the milestone of the 75th year of India's independence, I warmly congratulate the Indian communities in the ASEAN region, and thank them for their immense contribution to the development and prosperity of both India and ASEAN countries, and their role in strengthening the bonds of friendship and cooperation between the two sides.



# Indian Cultural and Civilization Links: Sculpting New Possibilities

**From roots in Hinduism and Buddhism to ASEAN Friendship Year 2022 ASEAN-India connections can be traced back to a heritage of rituals, culture, cuisine, and language**

**A**SEAN and India celebrated 30 years of relation with the launch of the 1st ASEAN-India Start-Up Festival on the 27th of October 2022. This prestigious event was an excellent reminder of the deep and significant ties between the ASEAN regions and the Indian sub-continent which have stood the test of time through this tumultuous journey through the centuries.

The cultural cross-connections have served to further cement these precious ties which go beyond that of spirituality, cuisine, language, and arts and crafts. The 1st ASEAN-India Start-Up Festival is a flagship initiative aimed at further strengthening the cooperation and collaboration in science, technology, and innovation between India and the ASEAN Member States which include Myanmar, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, Laos, Brunei, the Philippines and recently added Timor Leste.

The people-to-people ties in the

framework of these cultural and civilization links have been centric to the burgeoning connectivity and find even more relevance in the celebrations of ASEAN Friendship Year 2022.

The Government of India's 'Act East Policy' has been a trigger for adding even deeper significance to these cultural and civilizations links between the two regions. While the 2009 Free Trade Agreement has given a fillip to trade and investments with members of the ASEAN, steps have been taken to also renew the partnership and contact with member countries that share similar cultures, artistic traditions, family values, and customs.

While visiting countries such as Thailand (ancient Siam), Cambodia (Kampuchea of olden times), Indonesia, and Myanmar travelers will discover how even today they reflect strong traces of ancient Indian influences in their religion, art, culture, and civilisation.

Records from trading logs and

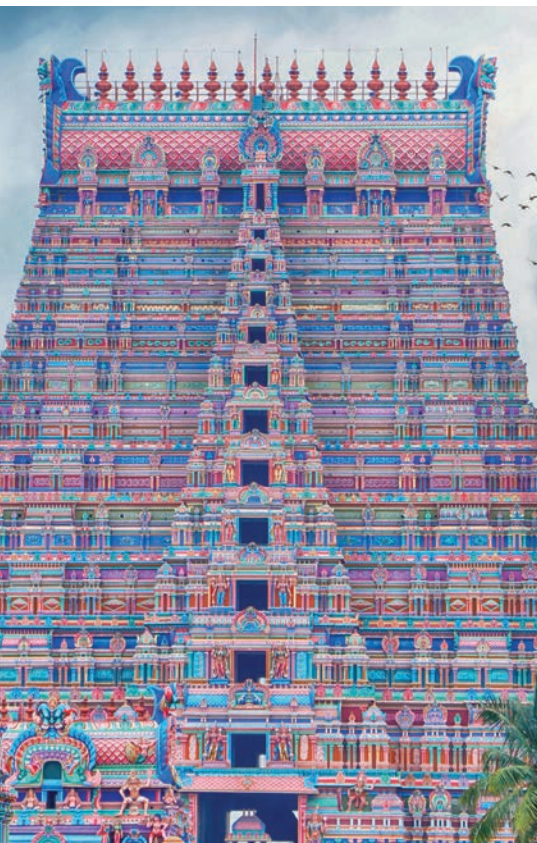
travellers' diaries have proven to serve as an excellent window for the interfaces and connections between the two on many fronts.

The merchant princes of ancient India traveled extensively in Southeast Asia to strengthen their trading pursuits. They used both land and sea routes. The former took them via Bengal, Assam, Manipur, and Burma while the sea route led from the Coromandel Coast to Cape Comorin and via Malacca strait to the Malay Peninsula. Indian goods, even during the golden age of the Gupta dynasty, were much favoured by these growing markets. Few know that the first Indian trading post in the region was established in Vietnam at Funan in the Mekong Delta, a flourishing maritime hub.

Some traders even put down roots here, which spread to other countries in the region; these developments opened up a new narrative of both markets.

While Indian merchants lured these countries with their wondrous goods including textiles and jewels, those who found employment in the courts of their rulers too played a pivotal role in the spread and absorption of the local culture of Indian religion, political thought, literature, mythology, and artisanal traditions. These boatloads of traders on these missions also travelled in the company of warriors and priests who found employment in various forms in the new lands they traveled to.

Those early settlers from the Indian subcontinent brought the fabulous wealth of cultural diversity from their homeland, which over time left their impression on the local communities, the religion, the music and dance forms, the language, the arts and crafts, architecture and cuisine.



Srirangam Ranganathar Temple



A Durga Devi temple in Mumbai, India during the festival of Navratri

### Spiritual Connections

Hinduism and Buddhism came gently from India. This movement was a cultural one, not one of conquest in these lands. Brahmin priests and Buddhist monks, who were part of this stream of people moving from India to the ASEAN countries during these days of the early settlers, brought with them the tenets of their faith and mostly lived in hermitages and ashrams in the localities where they first laid roots.

Cambodia and Indonesia probably saw the largest number of arrivals of merchants, monks, and Hindu priests and served as a base for the spread of Indian culture, religion, and civilization in several parts of Southeast Asia. Buddhist monks arrived in South East Asia as far back as the 3rd century BCE when the emperor Ashoka sent them out to spread his newfound faith. With trade between India and Burma on the rise, there was a spurt in contact with the Indian traders and their religious beliefs. Thaton in Burma was one of the first places the monks from Ashoka arrived to spread Buddhism. Buddhist monks also traveled on trading ships in order to go on pilgrimage, thus carrying their religious practices far afield. In the fourth century, Indian influence left its mark across Cambodia.

Two centuries on, the rulers who practiced Hinduism in these kingdoms also supported the Buddhist communities, which practiced mainly Mahayana Buddhism. At the end of the 13th century, Theravada Buddhism gained the support of the Thai king, Ramkham-haeng who invited Buddhist monks to teach in his capital city of Sukothai. He also established relations with Sri Lanka by sending monks there to study.

The massive maritime empire spread across the Indonesian islands of Java and Sumatra, which reigned supreme from the 6th-14th century, saw the arrival of many Indian artisans (in particular from present-day Odisha) seeking work in the courts. When wandering around Borobudur and Angkor Wat, Pagan, and Prambanan, you will find rich evidence of the deep influences of Indian art and architecture.

It was not only in art and architecture that Indian settlers left their impress in several ASEAN countries back in the day. At the Siamese courts Hindu Brahmins, with their knowledge of statecraft, governance systems, legal systems, philosophy, astrology, art, and

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**It was not only in art and architecture that Indian settlers left their impress in several ASEAN countries back in the day. At the Siamese courts Hindu Brahmins, with their knowledge of statecraft, governance systems, legal systems, philosophy, astrology, art, and architecture were welcomed to serve as advisors, administrators, and priests**

architecture were welcomed to serve as advisors, administrators, and priests.

The edited versions of the Hindu epics, the Ramayana and Mahabharata, created to appeal to the local communities in the countries of Southeast Asia were also a result of retelling of their stories from generation to generation. Brahmin priests were pivotal to some of the rituals and ceremonies introduced through the Hindu links of the Ramayana at the Siamese court. It's interesting to learn that there are about 300 different versions of this great story extant across India and Sri Lanka, Thailand, and throughout South East Asia. So you have the Seri Rama, a Malaysian adaptation of the Ramayana, and Ramker or Ramayana Khmer in Cambodia. In Indonesia, for example, shadow play with leather puppets on a screen narrating scenes from Ramayana is very popular even today. Krishna



A girl writing in an Indian language

and Arjun riding a chariot pulled by eleven horses from a scene out of the Mahabharata is a prominent monument in a park in Jakarta.

## Language

Brahmins, with their deep knowledge of ancient Hindu scriptures and treatises, were also experts in the Sanskrit language. Amongst the earliest writing forms

## Cuisine

Indian culinary influences dating back over 2,000 years are richly evidenced in the foodways of South East Asia with its spread across Southeast Asia from Myanmar to the Malay Archipelago and the Malay Peninsula. From preparations of curries and rice to spices and herbs, you will find many commonalities in these culinary pursuits.



A woman serving Pooris

from India to reach Southeast Asia from India were Sanskrit scripts, from which similar alphabets were drawn for local languages. Evidence of this influence on the Indian prototype can be found in the alphabets used today for Burmese, Thai, Laos, and Cambodia.

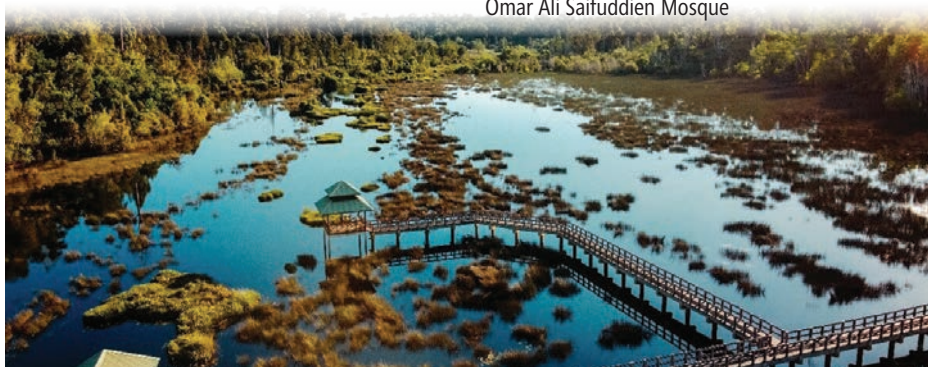
India's influences in the ASEAN region were highly active between the first century C.E. to the 1300s, after which they started fading with the arrival of Islam in Sumatra in the 1300s and later followed by the Europeans in the early 14th century.

# 10 Good Reasons to Go ASEAN On Your Next Holiday

The tropical grandeur of its natural heritage, the wonderments of its history and heritage, and its incredible multi-ethnic, multicultural diversity all come together to make South East Asia one of the world's most exciting places to visit



**1 BRUNEI** Brunei Darussalam boasts a colourful exhibition of fascinating customs and rich nature, with a contemplative respect for religion as well as reverence for its ancient sovereignty. Brunei is a tiny nation on the island of Borneo. It has long been synonymous with opulence and oil money. Some of the must-see places that have made it one of the most distinctive Islamic Sultanate to visit in the world include: **Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque** is a place of worship as well as a major historical site and famous tourist attraction; **Labi** town is one of the top ecotourist spots. **Kampong Ayer** is a cluster of traditional villages built on the Brunei River in the vicinity of the capital's city centre.



Luagan Lalak Forest Recreation Park in Labi



Angkor Wat, Agkor, Cambodia

**2 CAMBODIA** The agrarian pursuits of the populace reveal that the heart of the nation lies in its rural landscapes, but centric to Cambodia's many allurements are the iconic over 1,000 temples of **Angkor**, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. It's also



Omar Ali Saifuddien Mosque

spiced up with French and American nuances, reflected in the buzzing environs of national capital, **Phnom Penh**. The **Royal Ballet** in Phnom Penh specialized in the classical, highly stylized **apsara** dances as well as dance-dramas recounting the Ramayana epic and other tales. The **Royal University of Fine Arts** has been pivotal in reviving Cambodian classical music and dance. National capital city of **Siem Reap** serves as the gateway to the Angkor Wat with its own attractions that include colonial and Chinese-style buildings; Other unmissables are **Angkor National Museum** and **Cambodia Landmine Museum**; cultural villages, traditional handicraft shops, silk farms etc.



Borobudur Temple

**3 INDONESIA** 'Massive' is an understatement when it comes to Indonesia. It stretches thousands of kilometres from Sumatra in the west to the untrammelled expanses of Irian Jaya in the east and is home to 17,000 islands, 300 languages, and an ancient legacy of cross-cultural delights to please even the fussiest traveller. Start at national capital **Jakarta**, which is awash with malls, restaurants, pubs and eateries to match all pockets. Soak up the vibe of **Taman Fatahillah Square** in the **Old Quarter**. Java, the most populous island, has been pivotal to Indonesia's history and politics, but it also offers an excellent window to what they call the 'Javanese mysticism' powered by Islamic, Hindu and Buddhist influences. Work your way to Sumatra where **Danau Toba**, the world's largest



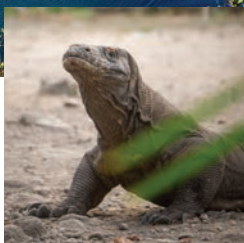
Bali, Indonesia

volcanic lake is a spectacular visual. Spend leisurely moments soaking in the cultural richness of the cradle of civilisation in Java, the royal twin cities of **Jokjakarta** and **Solo**. **Borobudur**, **Parambanana** and **Ratuuboko** should definitely be on your wish list. In **Bali**, the big ticket global beach destination, go swimming and surfing—and then steep yourself in its Hindu culture. Catch a performance of Indonesia’s version of the Ramayana. **Lombok**, in Nusa Tenggara, you will find is more laid-back and more calming than Bali.



Natural Beauty of Raja Ampat

Don't miss time with the **Komodo Dragons**.



**LAOS** With its forested mountains, upland plateaus and lowland plains, its cultural diversity and spiritual richness Laos offers visitor a host of immersive experiences to enjoy. In **Luang Prabang**, an UNESCO-acclaimed World Heritage Site spread along the banks of the **Mekong River**, reflect upon its Buddhist heritage mirrored in its centuries-old monasteries. Both Buddhist and Hindu influences have shaped the visual, performing, and literary arts of the country. An unmissable spot in the centre of the city of **Vientiane** is **Pha That Luang**, a massive gold-leafed Buddhist stupa. **Buddha Park** in Vientiane is a famous sculpture park with over 200 religious statues, including a huge 40-metre high reclining Buddha. The UNESCO World Heritage Site of the **Vat Phou** (or **Wat Phou**) temple complex in **Champasak** is one of Southeast Asia’s best examples of both early and classic Khmer architecture dating from the 7th to 12th centuries; it includes the ancient city of **Shestrapura**.



In Vientiane: Buddha Park and (inset): Pha That Luang



Iconic KL landmark - Petronas Twin-Towers

**MALAYSIA** The South China Sea splits Malaysia in two: Peninsular or West Malaysia and East Malaysia which is on the island of Borneo home to the states of Sabah and Sarawak. The legacies of its natural and cultural heritage drive Malaysia’s big attraction as a tourist destination. Its sparkling beaches, steamy jungles, unspoilt coral reefs and incredible flora and fauna will keep the nature buff enthralled. In its cosmopolitan capital, **Kuala Lumpur (KL)**, abandon yourself to hectic shopping sprees, local food sampling, night bazaars and explorations of its colonial palaces and buildings. Popular climbing destination **Mount Kinabalu** in Sabah is Malaysia’s tallest mountain and part of **Kinabalu Park** - one of the oldest national parks in Malaysia and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site (WHS). **Gunung Mulu National Park** in Sarawak is also a UNESCO-acclaimed WHS. In **Penang**, ride the funicular to the top of Penang after a 2,007-meter-long climb in 5-10 minutes. Don't miss the local culinary delights at the hawker market.



**MYANMAR** Secret Myanmar, the Burma of yesteryears, resonates with the inner adventurer in us. It has enough to whet your appetite to return to its unspoilt jungles, its rural landscapes, its beautiful Buddhist hotspots, its laid-back cities—and of course its friendly people. It’s lovely that nature’s hand is richly preserved in **Yangon** (evocative Rangoon), the former

national capital, beloved for still being the ‘Garden City of the East’. Visit the massive **Shwedagon Pagoda**, **Botahtaung Pagoda**, the humongous **Chaukhtatgyi Buddha** and the **Tomb of Bahadur Shah Zafar**, the last Mughal emperor of India. Spend time at the atmospheric **Scott’s Market** for souvenir shopping. **Bagan**, with its over a thousand pagodas, is an

unmissable treat for the culture buff. Now a fabulous archaeological site, it served as the capital of the first empire of Burma. The serene environs of **Inle Lake** are a huge draw for visitors. **Mandalay** is the heart of Burmese culture, also known as “the indestructible heart of Myanmar”.



**Genting Highlands** with its casino, leisure resorts and strawberry farms attracts throngs of visitors year round. Pencil in a couple of nights stays at pristine **Langkawi** a sunny tropical paradise, where you should ride the cable car up to Gunung Machinchang Mountain. Exploring the tea plantations of the misty **Cameron Highlands** spins you back to Malaysia's colonial past. The highlands are also famous for the indigenous *Rafflesia*, the largest individual flower on earth. On the **East Coast** of Peninsular Malaysia there are plenty of choices for white sandy beach-side holiday resorts situated in some of its 12 **marine parks**.



**7 THE PHILIPPINES**

The Philippines has over 7,000 islands and is the perfect getaway to

experience a mixture of nature, culture, and fun. The country has won numerous international awards for its bountiful marine life with pristine coral reefs, lush coral gardens, huge schools of fish, rare critters and manta rays! It is also has many top scuba dive destinations such as in the **Tubbataha Reefs Natural Park** that features rich biodiversity. Top attractions include: The islands and beaches of **Bohol Boracay, Palawan** and **Siquijor** are some of the most beautiful in the world. Its capital **Manila** offers a combination of old and modern charms from old forts to a glitzy cosmopolitan nightlife.



**10 VIETNAM**

Its glorious natural heritage, cultural diversity and legendary culinary persuasions all add to Vietnam's attraction. The influences of India and China have been pivotal to shaping its cultural ethos. Festivals, biking, skiing, hiking, climbing, cruising, diving, sightseeing tours add lustre to Vietnam as a global tourist destination.



**8 SINGAPORE**

The vibrant multiculturalism of Singapore has placed it as one of the most exciting gateways to the allurements of the ASEAN region. The island-nation is a wonderful window to the grand diversity of the region in every which way. From shopping to entertainment, from ethnic festivals and social events to culinary diversions, Singapore is a rollercoaster ride of many delights. Abandon yourself to the many charms of its **Marina Bay** area with its stunning botanical spaces. The waterfront promenade offers its own thrilling experiences. **Chinatown** is just the place to be during the Chinese Lantern Festival. Spoil your taste buds at **Newton Hawker Market** or the many international foodie hubs around town.



**9 THAILAND**

Its popularity with the global travelling community has been underpinned by the massive turnout of 10 million tourists in 2022 with the country opening up after the Covid-pandemic. This tropical getaway has a host of allurements for the passionate culture buff, many destinations for the beach aficionado—and a roller coaster ride of delights for those who want to shop till

they drop! From **Krabi** to **Ko Samui** to **Hua Hin**, Thailand is a watersports enthusiast's paradise. Unmissable hot spots are the UNESCO World Heritage Site of **Ayutthaya** and the historic city of **Nakhon Pathom**, renowned for housing the world's tallest Buddhist pagoda. Travel from pagodas to the crocodiles of **Samut Prakan**, home to the largest crocodile farm in the world. Star destinations **Phuket** and **Pattaya**, where you can pull out all the stops, are constants in the firmament of Thailand's tourist allurements.



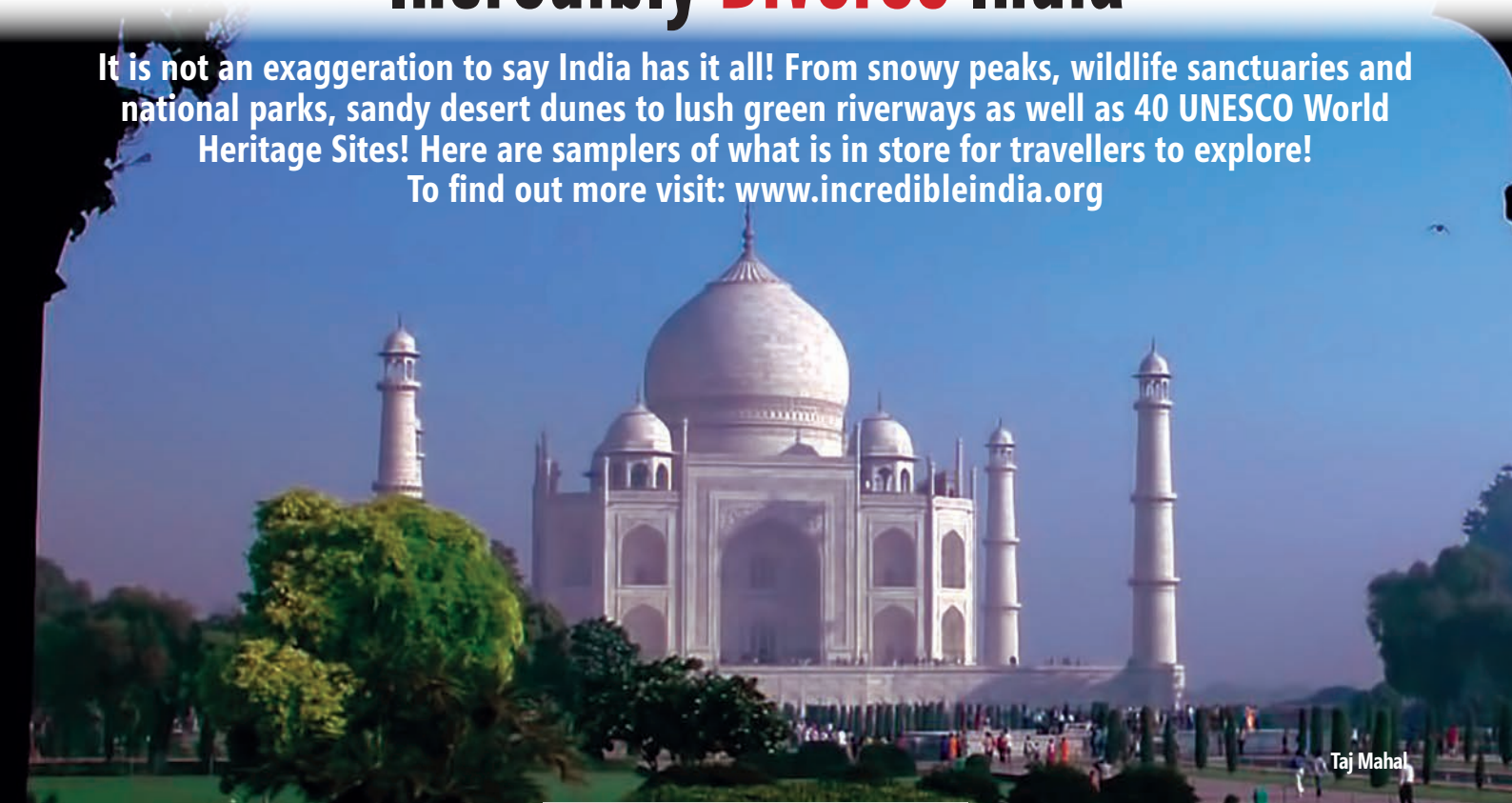
The serene **Halong Bay**, an UNESCO WHS is still the big showstopper known for its 1,600 towering limestone islands and islets. In the colonial-nuanced national capital **Hanoi** stop by at the **Ba Đình Square**, home to the **Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum**, the large memorial to the Vietnamese leader. The

**Ha Noi Opera House** is another architectural landmark there built by the French. **Ho Chi Minh City**, formerly **Saigon**, combines a dizzy combo of international flair and Vietnamese vibes, definitely a tourist hotspot. Check out the **Independence Palace** and **War Remnants Museum**. **My Son**, the largest collection of Cham ruins, this Hindu temple complex was constructed between the 4th to 14th century by the Champa rulers. It is one of Southeast Asia's most important archaeological sites.



# Incredibly **Diverse** India

It is not an exaggeration to say India has it all! From snowy peaks, wildlife sanctuaries and national parks, sandy desert dunes to lush green riverways as well as 40 UNESCO World Heritage Sites! Here are samplers of what is in store for travellers to explore!  
To find out more visit: [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)



Taj Mahal

## Agra

It has India's most luminous tourist attractions including that compelling monument to love, the **Taj Mahal**. A marvel in pristine white marble with accents in semi-precious stones, calligraphy and bas-relief with floral forms, set in a variant of a Charbagh Mughal garden "the Taj is a teardrop on the cheek of time" wrote Nobel laureate Rabindranath Tagore. Another Mughal structure, which is an acclaimed UNESCO World Heritage Site is the 16th century **Agra Fort** built by the Mughal emperor Akbar. Surrounded by massive walls built of red sandstone, this forbidding structure features the lovely **Pearl Mosque** (Moti Masjid) and the **Jahangiri Mahal**. You can also visit the **Mehtab Garden**. Explore the vibrant bazaars to shop for traditional artefacts in marble, carpets, and leatherwear. You can visit a craft workshop to watch artisans who are keeping alive the tradition of the beautiful inlay work which has been used extensively in the Taj.



Lotus Temple

## Delhi

The national capital offers a heady introduction to India's legendary allurements. The city mingles the exoticism of its past with its vibrant 21st century persuasions with seamless delight. It is often thought of as a gateway to India that contains elements of the Hindu and Islamic faiths, along with Sikhism, Jainism, Christianity, and Buddhism, which all add to the rich fabric of Delhi's religious pursuits. A top attraction is the flower-like **Lotus Temple**, a Bahai House of Worship which is open to all.

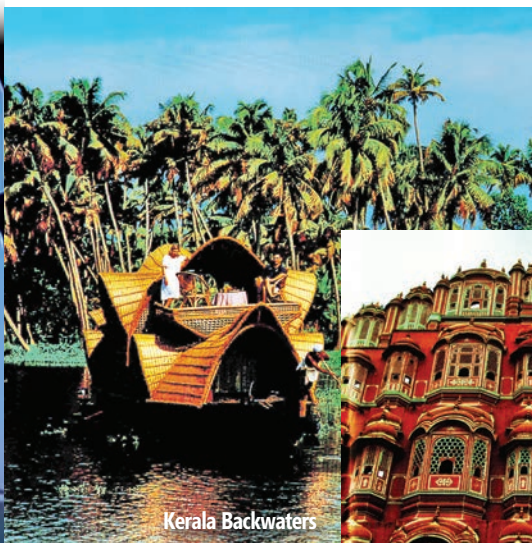
Discover the **Old Quarter** with many unmissable spots to visit - the famous **Red Fort**, **Jama Masjid**, **Fatehpuri Masjid** and **Khari Baoli**, which is Asia's

biggest spice market. Shop for jewellery, textiles, woollies, pashmina shawls and the like in the famous lanes of **Chandni Chowk**, and take a break to gorge on the fabulous offering of street eats.

Head out to **Raj Ghat**, the serene and elegant memorial dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi. You can unwind in more of the city's past at the UNESCO World Heritage Sites such as the 13th century **Qutab Minar** and 16th century **Humayun's Tomb**. Explore Delhi's colonial past in Luteyn's Delhi, home to **Rashtrapati Bhavan**, the erstwhile residence of the British viceroy, the **Parliament Buildings**, **India Gate** and the tree-lined avenues of Raj-era bungalows.

## Kerala Backwaters

One of India's most charming attractions in the South is indulging in a cruise along Kerala's beautiful network of rivers in a traditional rice boat. **Alleppey** is the jump-off point for journeys along Kerala's backwaters. Take a walking tour here to get deeper insights into the backwater ecosystem and its impact on



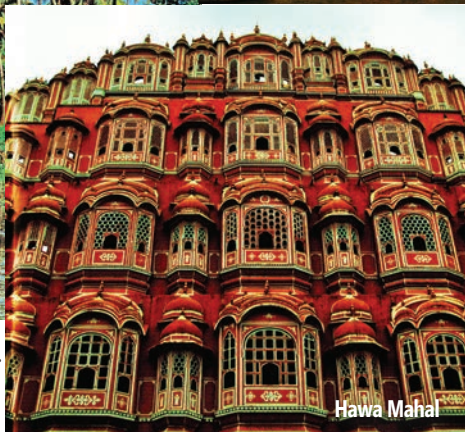
Kerala Backwaters



Varanasi



Gulmarg



Hawa Mahal

the local communities.

### Goa

Goa's sunny beaches, balmy climate and rich history and stimulating cultural offerings have made Goa one of the world's most appealing beach destinations embracing the playful waters of the Arabian Sea. People love Goa for its party vibe, its laid-back ambience and the natural gregarious nature of the friendly locals. The pleasures of sunbathing, watersports, the choice of culinary offerings, music and dancing, are compelling reasons for its burgeoning fan following.

### Varanasi

One of the world's oldest continuously inhabited cities, Varanasi, is also one of India's holiest pilgrimage sites, nestled by the legendary Ganga River. Also known as the 'City of Light' it is the earthly home of Lord Shiva. Visitors to Varanasi can enjoy stimulating and immersive cultural and spiritual experiences as they delve deep into its history, architecture and textile traditions.

### Jaipur

Get in step with the 1,000-odd year reign of the Kachwaha rulers at the Maharaja Swai Man Singh II Museum (City Palace Museum) in Jaipur's Rajput-Mughal-style **City Palace**.

While plunging into the delights of a hectic shopping spree in the **Old Quarter**

you just can't miss the peachy **Hawa Mahal (Palace of Winds)**. The 18th century **Jantar Mantar** is one of the largest and best preserved observatories of the five built by Maharaja Swai

Jai Singh II. A drive to the **Amer Fort** is worthy of its amazing Sheesh Mahal, the Hall of Mirrors. You can also stop by at the famous **Jaigarh** and **Nahargarh** forts en route. If you are a wildlife enthusiast, do take in a safari at the **Jhalana Leopard Sanctuary**.

### Srinagar

Present day Srinagar, in the heart of the Kashmir Valley at 1,730 m above sea level, sprawls along the banks of the river Jhelum. Terraced lawns, tinkling fountains, pretty water channels, flowering trees and radiant flower beds marked the perfect lines of the formality (reflecting the order and splendour of paradise) of Kashmir's Mughal gardens. Picnics and parties attended by Mughal royalty were elaborate affairs in these blissful retreats.

The Mughal emperor Jehangir's commissioned the glorious **Shalimar Gardens** for his beloved wife Nur Jehan. Picnics and boating have been integral to fun and frolic in Kashmir's verdant vistas for centuries. The evocative nuances of mesmerizing Dal and Nagin Lakes, the Jhelum River and its channels, Char Chinar and those splendid vistas of the Pir Panjal range are timeless. Savour vignettes of life on the waterfront — take a round trip by shikara down the Dal Lake from Nehru

Park, Hazratbal and Rainawari.

Set off for a leisurely sojourn in the heady environs of **Gulmarg** Kashmir's premier hill town. Summertime pleasures are marked by pony rides and picnics in alpine meadows, golf and gondola rides and treks to Affarwat Peak. Winter spells the annual international winter sports festival at Gulmarg and lots of skiing and sledding fun at **Khilanmarg**.

### Hyderabad

Hyderabad offers a fabulous range of fulfilling experiences to please even the most jaded traveller. Steep yourself in the legends and myths of some of the most quirky Nizams, who are ranked amongst India's richest rulers from yesteryears. Then head out to some of the city's most iconic spots linked to their world that are found in the palaces, mansions and museums as you gaze upon priceless jewels, exquisite artefacts, arresting tapestries, statues and the like. Do pencil in visits to the gorgeous **Chowmahalla Palace**, the awesome **Faluknama Palace** (now run as a super luxury hotel) and the **Salar Jung Museum** with its priceless treasures.

The **Old Quarter** will blow you away with its Nizami history and culture. Another must-do activity is to delve deep into Hyderabad's sumptuous food traditions of *biryanis* and *kebabs*, meat and vegetarian dishes and delicious desserts which define its cross-cultural diversity. Follow the Necropolis trail to spend time at the legendary **Golconda Fort** and its nightly Sound and Light Show.

# Towards Closer Ties and Collaborations

Congratulations on 30 years of  
ASEAN-India Partnership

## From SingHealth Group

Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) is a healthcare group in Singapore with four hospitals, five national specialty centres, three community hospitals, and a network of primary healthcare clinics. With over 40 medical specialties and a faculty of 3,700 doctors, the group offers integrated care in a multidisciplinary setting.

SingHealth institutions have earned a reputation for setting standards in healthcare for the region. Patients enjoy the benefit of treatments with solid diagnostic and treatment medical technology in a wide range of medical procedures.



### SingHealth Hospitals



Singapore General Hospital



Changi General Hospital



Sengkang General Hospital



KK Women's and Children's Hospital



### National Specialty Centres



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