

IN DIPLOMACY

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SINGAPORE



FEATURED COVERAGE

HRH THE PRINCESS ROYAL'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE

SICCI & SMF CELEBRATE 60 YEARS WITH SUN MEDIA BOOK LAUNCH PRESIDED OVER BY PRESIDENT THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM

FROM AI TO TOKENISATION: KEY THEMES SHAPING THE SINGAPORE FINTECH FESTIVAL 2025

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17 November 2025

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EDITOR'S NOTE

Singapore's Diplomatic Season Strengthening Bonds, Advancing Cooperation



Diplomacy remains the quiet architecture behind cooperation, growth, and stability — and in the final months of 2025, Singapore continued to shape that architecture with clarity of intent and confidence of partnership. This edition of IN Diplomacy brings into focus a season of engagement marked not by spectacle, but by steady progress, thoughtful dialogue, and the reaffirmation of friendships old and new.

We begin with a moment of history and heritage — Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal's visit to Singapore, commemorating 60 years of United Kingdom–Singapore relations. Meetings with national leaders, visits to centres of research and manufacturing, and the dedication of the Princess Royal Pavilion reflected not only diplomatic tradition but a relationship that continues to evolve with purpose, anchored in trust and shared ambition.

Technology and finance took the global stage through the Singapore FinTech Festival 2025, where ideas once speculative entered the realm of implementation. From responsible AI governance to cross-border tokenisation frameworks, the conversations of this year's festival echoed a world in transition — one in which Singapore stands at the convergence of innovation, regulation, and international cooperation.

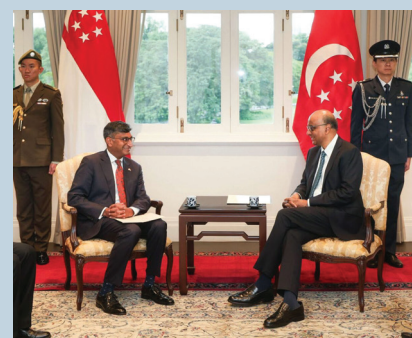
Further afield, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan's working visit to the Middle East underscored Singapore's principled support for peacebuilding, humanitarian recovery, and long-term stability. In Southeast Asia, capacity-building continued through the S R Nathan Fellowship, welcoming Cambodian Permanent Secretary Youk Bunna for exchanges across public institutions. And across the Aegean and Asia, a working visit by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis opened new avenues in maritime collaboration, digital governance, and green transition — demonstrating how diplomacy thrives when ideas are shared openly and constructively.

Economic partnerships and defence cooperation also found renewed expression. The arrival of INS Karmuk for SITMEX-2025 strengthened trilateral maritime readiness with India and Thailand, while the second edition of the Invest Mongolia Forum highlighted Singapore's role as a bridge for regional opportunity and global investment. Denmark and Singapore's commemorative walk at Fort Canning, meanwhile, reminded us that diplomacy is just as alive in simplicity — in shared movement, shared space, shared hope.

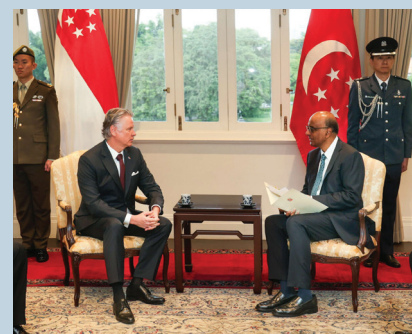
As always, IN Diplomacy seeks not merely to report moments, but to trace the threads that bind them — the continuity of trust, the quiet persistence of dialogue, and the steady hand with which Singapore engages the world. In these pages, we witness diplomacy not as ceremony alone, but as a living, evolving conversation.

Happy reading — and onward, with friendship and purpose.

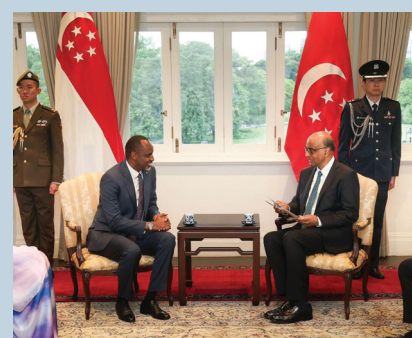
Presentation of Credentials Ceremony, 17 November 2025



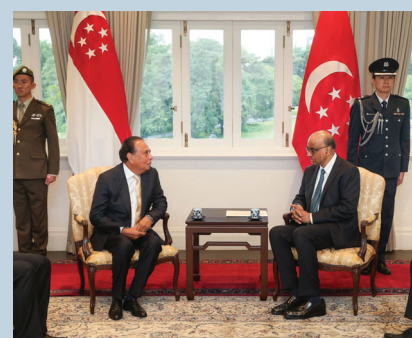
His Excellency Paul Thoppil
The High Commissioner of Canada



His Excellency Artis Bertulis
The Ambassador of the European Union



His Excellency Innocent Bagamba
Muhizi, The High Commissioner of the
Republic of Rwanda



His Excellency Dr. Anjani Kumar Sinha
The Ambassador of the United States of
America

HRH The Princess Royal's Visit to Singapore

Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal visited Singapore on 12–13 November 2025 to celebrate six decades of diplomatic ties, meeting key leaders and visiting prominent British-linked institutions.



From left to right: HRH Princess Anne, Princess Royal; Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore; and Vice Admiral Sir Tim Laurence

On 12–13 November 2025, Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal, Princess Anne, travelled to Singapore at the invitation of the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office to commemorate 60 years of diplomatic relations between the United Kingdom and the Republic of Singapore. Accompanied by Sir Tim Laurence, The Princess Royal undertook a series of official visits and meetings over the two-day tour.

The visit began at the British High Commission Offices, where Her Royal Highness unveiled a plaque renaming the pavilion building as 'The Princess Royal Pavilion' to mark the milestone in bilateral relations. She then held audiences with the President of Singapore and with Prime Minister Mr. Lawrence Wong, reflecting the strong political and diplomatic partnership between the two nations. Her Royal Highness also toured key industrial and technological sites. At the Airbus



The Princess Royal visited the Singapore Botanic Gardens

Asia Training Centre, the world's largest flight crew training facility, she observed A350 flight simulations. Later, she visited the Rolls-Royce Seletar Campus, Singapore's largest Rolls-Royce manufacturing facility established in 2012, where she received briefings on production operations and visited the company's Regional Training Centre, the first of its kind in Asia. This visit continues The Princess Royal's longstanding engagement with Singapore. Her previous visit in November 2016 included The Mission to Seafarers and Riding for the Disabled, reflecting her roles as President and Patron respectively. Notably, during her visit in 1972, she was awarded the Distinguished Service Order, a rare honour for a foreign dignitary.

SICCI & SMF Mark 60 Years with Sun Media Book Launch

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) celebrated six decades of enterprise excellence with a day of reflection and collaboration, culminating in the launch of a new commemorative book published by Sun Media.

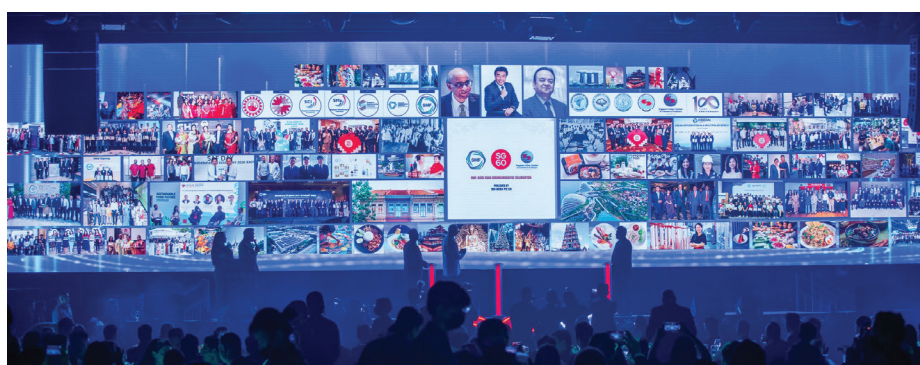
Singapore's extraordinary journey of enterprise development took the spotlight at the SG60 Fireside Chat & Gala Dinner, jointly organised by Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) and the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF). The event brought together business leaders, policymakers, and members of the diplomatic community to honour six decades of growth and to explore future pathways for resilience and innovation.



President Tharman Shanmugaratnam (centre), SICCI Chairman Neil Parekh (left), and SMF President Lennon Tan (right), jointly launched Sun Media's commemorative book

The event's programme included the SG60 Fireside Chat featuring Mr Heng Swee Keat, Former Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the National Research Foundation. He reflected on Singapore's progress over the past 60 years, attributing its success to strong leadership and principled governance. Looking ahead, he emphasised the importance of maintaining political neutrality, avoiding extremities, and fostering unity to ensure a stable and cohesive future.

Mr Heng also highlighted key economic priorities for the coming years, particularly the need to enhance total factor productivity (TFP) as the nation faces the challenges of an ageing population. He encouraged businesses to fortify their resilience by strengthening their ability to anticipate and respond to crises. Technology, he noted, should be viewed as a long-term investment and a continuous learning journey essential for sustaining competitiveness.



The launch of Sun Media's commemorative book, "Unity in Diversity, Strength in Business," by SICCI and SMF, was presided over by President Tharman.

The Gala Dinner, graced by Guest-of-Honour President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, featured the official launch of the commemorative book *Unity in Diversity, Strength in Business*. Published by Sun Media, the volume documents 60 years of enterprise-driven nation-building and highlights the instrumental contributions of SICCI and SMF in shaping an innovative, inclusive, and economic landscape.

As the publisher of this milestone book, Sun Media is proud to support organisations in capturing their legacy, milestones, and achievements through high-quality commemorative publications. Sun Media welcomes opportunities to collaborate with institutions, associations, and corporate partners seeking to preserve their heritage and share their stories with broader audiences. A dedicated media kit detailing this service will be available soon. The event closed with gratitude to leaders, diplomats, and partners. Their collaborative spirit reaffirmed the role of unity and diversity in supporting Singapore's ongoing growth and resilience.

From AI to Tokenisation: Key Themes Shaping the Singapore FinTech Festival 2025

The Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF) 2025, held from 12-14 November, brought together global leaders to explore digital finance. Over three days of keynotes, technical discussions and product showcases, the festival focused on responsible AI adoption, tokenisation, cross-border connectivity and collaborative regulatory frameworks. Sun Media, through its portal IN Diplomacy, served as a media partner for this year's edition



MAS Managing Director Mr Chia Der Jui at SFF 2025

The 10th edition of the Singapore FinTech Festival (SFF) opened with major developments in the financial technology landscape, highlighting Singapore's role as a global hub for innovation, collaboration, and responsible technology adoption.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the UK Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) jointly launched the UK-Singapore AI-in-Finance Partnership, a strategic initiative to support safe and responsible AI adoption in finance. The partnership provides a platform for financial institutions and solution providers in both countries to collaborate, scale AI solutions, and share regulatory insights. It will also facilitate joint testing of AI applications and exchanges on responsible AI practices through key programmes such as MAS' PathFin.ai and the FCA's AI Spotlight.

Kenneth Gay, Chief FinTech Officer at MAS, emphasised the growing importance

of AI in finance, noting that it is moving "from experiments to enterprise use, and from individual models to connected, agentic systems." He highlighted that the partnership "creates an important bridge for our financial institutions, innovators, and regulators to collaborate on trustworthy AI." Jessica Rusu, Chief Data, Information and Intelligence Officer at the FCA, added that the initiative "will help raise our global influence in a strategically competitive space."

The event also featured keynote remarks from MAS Deputy Managing Director (Markets & Development) Leong Sing Chiong, who outlined Singapore's vision of building "trusted, open and interoperable networks." He highlighted three focus areas: expanding cross-border applications under Project Guardian, developing tokenised deposits and stablecoins through Project BLOOM, and strengthening



Launch of the UK-SG AI-in-Finance Partnership



SFF2025 | DPM Gan Kim Yong VIP Tour



SFF2025 | DPM Gan Kim Yong VIP Tour



SFF 2025 Fireside Chat with DPM Gan Kim Yong

cross-border wholesale settlement infrastructure. He also shared updates on the Global Layer One (GL1) initiative, which MAS supports alongside international partners such as the Bank of England and Banque de France, aimed at developing interoperable financial infrastructures across jurisdictions.

On the second day of SFF 2025, MAS Managing Director Chia Der Jiun delivered a keynote titled “Creating the Future of Finance: A Journey of Innovation and Collaboration,” reflecting on SFF’s growth from 11,000 participants and 70 exhibitors in 2016 to over 65,000 participants and 600 exhibitors in 2025. He highlighted how MAS’ regulatory approach, combined with innovation support, has nurtured over 1,800 FinTech firms, enabling advances from digital banks and robo-advisors to AI-powered fraud detection and multi-lingual chatbots.

Looking ahead, Chia identified AI and tokenisation as key drivers of the next decade of financial innovation. MAS announced initiatives including BuildFin.ai, a collaborative platform for developing advanced AI solutions, and a

successful live trial of interbank overnight lending settlement using wholesale Central Bank Digital Currency (CBDC). MAS also published draft Guidelines on AI Risk Management, establishing principles-based guardrails to ensure safe and responsible adoption across the financial sector.

The day is also featured a fireside chat featuring Deputy Prime Minister Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Trade and Industry and MAS Chairman, moderated by DBS Bank Group CEO Tan Su Shan. Discussions covered global economic realignments, technological impacts on society, and the evolving role of central banks. DPM Gan also toured the SFF exhibition, visiting key industry players including Ant Group, UOB, NETS, Ripple, ST Engineering, Liquid Group, Moomoo, BondBloX, and ADVANCEAI.

Together, these developments underscore Singapore’s commitment to fostering innovation, interoperability, and trust in the digital finance ecosystem, reinforcing its position at the forefront of shaping the future of finance globally.

A Walk in the Park Marks 60 Years of Denmark–Singapore Relations

A commemorative walk at Fort Canning Park marks six decades of diplomatic relations, highlighting shared commitments to health, sustainability, and long-standing green connections.



Minister for Health, Mr. Ong Ye Kung (left), with Ambassador Jakob Brix Tange (right)

Denmark and Singapore marked the 60th anniversary of their diplomatic relations with A Walk in the Park, held at Fort Canning Park. Hosted by the Embassy of Denmark in Singapore, the event brought together more than 150 participants for a symbolic walk celebrating bilateral friendship, public health, and environmental sustainability. The occasion was graced by Guest of Honour Mr Ong Ye Kung, Singapore's Minister for Health and Coordinating Minister for Social Policies. His attendance underscored the event's central message: that accessible, everyday habits such as walking play an important role in supporting both physical and mental well-being.

The choice of Fort Canning Park carried significant historical relevance. The green partnership between Denmark and Singapore dates back over two centuries to 1822, when Danish botanist and surgeon Nathaniel Wallich established Singapore's first botanic garden on the same grounds. This legacy continues to shape both countries' shared priorities in sustainability, nature conservation, and urban liveability. Speaking at the event, Denmark's Ambassador to Singapore, Jakob Brix Tange, emphasised the importance of the anniversary and the symbolism behind the walk. He highlighted how simple daily actions, such as walking outdoors, can meaningfully improve individual health and strengthen community bonds. "With this event, we celebrate not only six decades of diplomatic relations, but also our shared commitment to sustainability and healthy living," said Ambassador Tange. "Small, everyday actions – like walking outdoors – can have a big impact on our health and our wellbeing. Today, we quite literally took a step together toward a greener, healthier

future. It is a simple, joyful way to connect with nature and each other."

Anand Shetty, Corporate Vice President for South East Asia at Novo Nordisk, echoed the importance of preventive health. "The increasing burden of chronic diseases such as diabetes and obesity poses a serious threat to public health and healthcare systems globally. We are here to partner with authorities and medical communities across the region in preventive health measures through initiatives such as Cities for Better Health, a pioneering urban health partnership now active in more than 50 cities worldwide, and with UNICEF to prevent childhood obesity. Singapore is already a trailblazer in preventive health with national initiatives such as Healthier SG. We look forward to working closely together to address the root causes of serious chronic diseases, reduce the global health burden, and foster a healthier future as envisioned by this Walk in the Park event."



The Minister on a 3.6 km walk with Ambassador Tange, Ng Boon, Koh Poo, and Anand Shetty

Today, more than 400 Danish companies operate in Singapore, contributing to advancements in renewable energy, sustainability, and healthcare. The strong cooperation between the two nations reflects their natural alignment as small, open economies committed to green development and innovation. Organised by the Embassy of Denmark in Singapore with the support of Novo Nordisk, the event celebrated not only a milestone in diplomatic ties but also a shared vision for a healthier and more sustainable future.



Group photo of the participants

Events

Ceylon Tea promoted at the Asia-Pacific Agri-Food Innovation Summit, Singapore

Ceylon Tea was showcased at the Asia-Pacific Agri-Food Innovation Summit (APAIS) 2025, held from 4–6 November at Marina Bay Sands, Singapore. Sponsored by the High Commission of Sri Lanka with support from the Sri Lanka Tea Board, the promotion highlighted the unique heritage and premium quality of Ceylon Tea. As a key platform for industry engagement, the summit helped enhance Sri Lanka's visibility in the Asia-Pacific agri-food value chain and reinforced the global reputation of Ceylon Tea as one of the world's finest origin teas.

Inaugurated by Ms. Grace Fu, Singapore's Minister for Sustainability and the Environment, the event brought together more than 800 participants from over 40 countries, including policymakers, investors, and industry leaders. High Commissioner H.E. Senarath Dissanayake and Minister Counsellor (Commercial) Ms. Bhagya Abeykoon represented Sri Lanka at the opening. By participating in APAIS 2025, Sri Lanka strengthened its market presence and expanded opportunities for partnerships and global outreach.



Ceylon Tea was presented at the Asia-Pacific Agri-Food Innovation Summit (APAIS) 2025



H.E. Enkhbayar S. delivers the opening remarks at Invest Mongolia Forum: Singapore 2025

Invest Mongolia Forum: Singapore 2025 concludes successfully for second year

The "Invest Mongolia Forum: Singapore 2025" was successfully held for the second consecutive year on 20 November in Singapore. The event brought together more than 100 representatives from international financial institutions, major investment funds, and enterprises from Singapore and beyond, along with delegates from over 30 Mongolian companies. Co-organised by the Embassy of Mongolia and CMM – Capital Markets Mongolia, the forum was supported by StoneX Group, Frontier Strategies, and Golomt Bank.

H.E. Enkhbayar S., Ambassador of Mongolia to the Republic of Singapore, delivered the opening address, followed by a presentation from Mr. Bilguundemberel M., Counsellor of the Embassy, who provided an in-depth overview of Mongolia's investment landscape and macroeconomic outlook. The forum served as a platform to foster dialogue, strengthen business engagement, and explore investment opportunities in Mongolia.

INS Karmuk Arrives in Singapore for SITMEX-2025 Maritime Exercise

The High Commission of India in Singapore welcomed the arrival of INS Karmuk for the fifth edition of the Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX-2025), scheduled from 23-29 November 2025. The Indian Navy's indigenously built Kora-class corvette will join the Republic of Singapore Navy and the Royal Thai Navy for coordinated maritime drills aimed at strengthening regional cooperation and interoperability. INS Karmuk's presence marks another step forward in the expanding trilateral partnership, reflecting the shared commitment of India, Singapore and Thailand to maintaining peace and security in the Indo-Pacific. The exercise focuses on joint manoeuvres, operational tasks at sea and professional exchanges between the three navies.

During the visit, Commodore Nitesh Garg, Naval Component Commander of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, along with the Commanding Officer of INS Karmuk, called on the High Commissioner of India in Singapore to brief on the ship's participation and mission objectives. The interaction highlighted the value of sustained naval engagement and cooperative readiness. Throughout the deployment, participating units will undertake activities aimed at enhancing maritime domain awareness, coordination and collective response. The High Commission conveyed its best wishes to all three navies, noting SITMEX-2025 as a notable demonstration of regional collaboration and shared maritime vision.



The High Commission of India in Singapore welcomed INS Karmuk for SITMEX-2025

Visits

SM Lee Hsien Loong Visited Thailand to Pay Respects to Late Queen Sirikit

Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Bangkok on 3 November 2025 to pay his respects to the late Her Majesty Queen Sirikit, The Queen Mother of Thailand. A tribute ceremony was held at the Grand Palace, where Senior Minister Lee honoured her memory and conveyed Singapore's condolences.

He was accompanied by Mrs Lee, along with officials from the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The visit underscored the long-standing friendship between Singapore and Thailand, reflecting Singapore's deep respect for the late Queen Sirikit.



Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong visited Bangkok to pay tribute to the late Queen Sirikit at the Grand Palace



Correct: Singapore's Foreign Minister Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan (left) and Israeli politician Gideon Sa'ar (right)

Working Visit by Minister Vivian Balakrishnan to the Middle East

Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan undertook a working visit to the Palestinian Territories and Israel from 3-6 November 2025. The visit followed the implementation of the first phase of the ceasefire agreement between Israel and Hamas, including the release of all hostages. It reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to humanitarian support for Palestinian civilians and to a negotiated two-state solution.

Singapore will continue to back capacity-building initiatives for the Palestinian Authority and contribute to international efforts for the long-term reconstruction of Gaza. Minister Balakrishnan was accompanied by Members of Parliament Yip Hon Weng and Hazlina Abdul Halim, both from the Government Parliamentary Committee for Defence and Foreign Affairs, as well as officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Visit by Youk Bunna under the S R Nathan Fellowship

Permanent Secretary of State of the Cambodian Ministry of Civil Service Youk Bunna visited Singapore under the S R Nathan Fellowship from 4-8 November 2025. The Fellowship, launched in 2012 by former President S R Nathan and then-Foreign Minister K Shanmugam, serves as a platform for foreign leaders and thought influencers to exchange insights with Singapore's leadership and senior officials on shared priorities and governance approaches.

During the visit, Permanent Secretary Youk was hosted to breakfast by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Trade & Industry Gan Siow Huang. He also received briefings from the Public Service Division, Singapore Food Agency, Economic Development Board, and Health Sciences Authority. In addition, he visited the National Library, Singapore City Gallery, and National Museum of Singapore, where he studied Singapore's library and information management systems, as well as its urban planning and development strategies.



Permanent Secretary Youk Bunna of Cambodia Visits Singapore under S R Nathan Fellowship



Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis (left) with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong (right)

Working Visit by Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis

Prime Minister of the Hellenic Republic (Greece) Kyriakos Mitsotakis made a Working Visit to Singapore from 20-22 November 2025. During the visit, he called on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and met with Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong. In his meeting with President Tharman, both sides reaffirmed the warm and expanding ties between Singapore and Greece. Their discussion covered economic reform and employment, trade and investment, renewable energy collaboration, and key regional and global developments. Prime Minister Mitsotakis' meeting with Prime Minister Wong explored opportunities to deepen cooperation in maritime affairs, trade, and food security. They also held broad discussions on digitalisation, the role of Artificial Intelligence in public governance, green transition policies, and international trade. As maritime nations, Singapore and Greece reiterated their shared interest in promoting free trade, strengthening multilateral cooperation, and upholding international law.