RIS
Research and Information System
for Developing Countries
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

AIC
ASEAN-India Centre at RIS

Roundtable Dialogue

Towards the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit: Priorities and Prospects for Cooperation
and
Launch of the ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report 2026

13 November 2026, Juniper Hall, India Habitat Centre (IHC), New Delhi

Concept Note

The ASEAN-India partnership has evolved considerably over the past three decades, expanding from a primarily economic relationship into a multifaceted engagement encompassing political and security cooperation, trade and investment, connectivity, technology, sustainable development and people-to-people exchanges. The elevation of the relationship to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) in 2022 marked an important milestone, reflecting the growing convergence of strategic and development priorities between ASEAN and India. However, the partnership is now navigating an increasingly uncertain global environment characterised by geopolitical tensions, geo-economic fragmentation, disruptions in global supply chains and challenges to multilateral cooperation. These developments underscore the need to strengthen regional resilience and explore new avenues for cooperation.

Against this backdrop, the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), through its ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), is bringing out the third edition of its flagship publication, the ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2026. Prepared with contributions from scholars and policy experts from India and ASEAN Member States, the report provides a comprehensive assessment of the evolving ASEAN-India partnership and identifies emerging opportunities for deepening cooperation. Comprising 18 chapters organised into four thematic parts, the report examines strategic priorities and maritime security; trade, investment, development cooperation and regional value chains; blue economy and connectivity; and digital transformation, artificial intelligence, sustainable development and energy transition. It seeks to contribute to evidence-based policy discussions and identify practical priorities for strengthening the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

To mark the launch of this important publication, RIS is organising a Roundtable Dialogue titled "***Towards the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit: Priorities and Prospects for Cooperation***" on 13 November 2026, ahead of the forthcoming 23rd ASEAN-India Summit. The dialogue will bring together senior policymakers, diplomats, academics, industry representatives and policy experts to reflect on the report's findings and deliberate on emerging priorities for ASEAN-India cooperation.

A key component of the programme will be a panel discussion on "ASEAN-India Partnership: Navigating Global Uncertainties and Building Resilience." The discussion will explore how ASEAN and India can respond to emerging geopolitical and economic challenges while harnessing opportunities for deeper cooperation in trade, investment, regional value chains, maritime connectivity,

digital transformation and sustainable development. The dialogue is expected to generate policy-relevant perspectives on advancing the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and contribute to discussions on priorities and prospects for cooperation ahead of the 23rd ASEAN-India Summit.

Tentative Agenda

09.30 – 10.00 **Registration**

10.00 – 11.00 **Inaugural Session and Report Release**

- Welcome Remarks by **Prof. Sachin Kumar Sharma**, *DG, RIS*
- Special Remarks by **H.E. Josel F Ignacio**, ***Ambassador*** *of the Republic of the Philippines to India*
- *Special Remarks by **H.E. Trinh Minh Manh**, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam (tbc)*
- Keynote Address by **Amb. Rudendra Tandon**, *Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*

Release of ASEAN-India Development and Cooperation Report (AIDCR) 2026

11.00 – 11.30 **Group Photo, Tea/Coffee Break**

11.30 – 12.55 **Panel Discussion: Navigating Global Uncertainties and Building Resilience**

Chair: Amb. Riva Ganguly Das, *Former Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*

Panellists

- **Mr. Abhijit Chakrabarty,** *Joint Secretary, Indian Council of World Affairs, India*
- **Dr. Arisman**, *Executive Director, CSAS, Jakarta*
- **Dr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna**, *Coordinator, DAKSHIN, RIS*
- **Ms. Joanne Lin**, *Senior Fellow and Co-Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore*
- **Dr. Pritam Banerjee,** *Executive Director, CII, New Delhi*
- **Dr. Truong Quang Hoan,** *Director, Centre for Southeast Asian Studies Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Socialist Republic of Vietnam*

12.55 – 13.05 **Valedictory Address: Dr. Thelma John David,** *Join Secretary (Indo-Pacific), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India*

13.05 – 13.10 **Vote of Thanks:** Dr. Pankaj Vashisht, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre, RIS

13.10 – 14.00 **Lunch and End of the Programme**