



ASEAN-India Centre

NEWSLETTER

Vol. 7 No. 2, July-December 2021

Policy Dialogue

Fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation, 23-24 November 2021



Group Photo of Delegates at 5th EAS Conference, Kolkata, 23-24 November 2021.

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India in partnership with the Australian Government and National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at (RIS), New Delhi, and Research Centre for East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K) organised the fifth EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation, held at Kolkata on

23-24 November 2021 in hybrid mode. In the inaugural session, Special Remarks were delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and Former Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha, President, Research Centre for

East and North East Regional Studies, Kolkata (CENERS-K). Ms. Megan Jones, Director, Regional Maritime Engagement and Programs, Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Canberra delivered the Special Address. Keynote Address was delivered by Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, New Delhi.

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The 5th EAS Conference on Maritime Security Cooperation discussed issues related to maritime security, information and resources sharing on the maritime domain, science and technology cooperation, disaster risk reduction and pandemic management and a panel discussion on way forward. Discussions reflected upon the importance of Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) and its seven pillars that has the potential to strengthen its India's pragmatic diplomacy in the region. The IPOI is focused on better management of shared interests of the participating countries. There is an urgent need to facilitate convergences of national and regional interests in the Indo-Pacific and IPOI is suited for such a scenario. Over 90 delegates attended the conference. The conference covered dynamic issues of Indo-Pacific and identified actionable agenda for future course of Indo-Pacific region.

The first session on Maritime Security was chaired by Dr. Malini V Shankar, Vice-Chancellor, Indian Maritime University (IMU), Chennai. Superintendent Joanne Prior, Australian Border Force; Commander Touch Ponleu, National Committee for Maritime Security (NCMS), Cambodia; Mr. Jian Xin, China Maritime Safety Administration, Beijing, China; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, AVSM & Bar, VSM, IN (Retd.), Director General, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New

Delhi; Mr. Takehiko Wajima, Director, Space and Maritime Security Policy Division, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Japan (MoFA), Japan; and Commodore P.K. Banerjee, VSM (Retd.), Distinguished Fellow, CENERS-K, Kolkata were the speakers in this session. Capt. Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, NMF moderated the second session and the theme of the session was Resource Sharing. The session speakers were Mr. Kevin McEvoy, Australian Maritime Safety Authority; Captain Himadri Das, IN, Research Fellow, NMF, New Delhi; Major Surendran Kumar, Information Fusion Centre, Singapore; and Prof. Suman K Mukherjee, Distinguished Fellow, CENERS-K, Kolkata. The session on science and technology cooperation was chaired by Dr. Bhaskar Balakrishnan, Science Diplomacy Fellow, RIS. Mr. Mark Alcock, Geoscience Australia; Rear Admiral KM Ramakrishnan, [ACNS [Communications, Space, & Network-Centric Operations (CSNCO)], Indian Navy; and Mr. Christopher Merritt, US Mission to ASEAN were the speakers in this session. The fourth session was on Pandemic and Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, which was chaired by Mr. Taguchi Seiichiro, Minister, Embassy of Japan in India. In this session, the speakers were Captain Amanda Garlick, Royal Australian Navy; Surgeon Rear Admiral Shankar Narayan, Additional Director General

Armed Forces Medical Services (Addl DGAFMS (E&S)), Indian Navy; Dr. Zaw Minn Aung, Dy. Director General, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA), Myanmar; and Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi. The session discussed how disaster risk reduction in East Asia has particularly become a serious challenge in the post-pandemic period. Commodore C Uday Bhaskar, Director, Society for Policy Studies (SPS) moderated the panel discussion on Way Forward. The eminent speakers of the session were Mr. Justin Whyatt, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), Australia; Vice-Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, DG, NMF, New Delhi; Amb. Foster Gultom, Former Indonesian Ambassador to the Republic of Kazakhstan and the Republic of Tajikistan, Jakarta; and Mr. Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Joint Secretary (South and Indo-Pacific), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), New Delhi. In the closing session, Closing Remarks and Vote of Thanks were extended by the Mr. Manoj Pandey, Dy. Secretary, Ministry of External Affairs, India; Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi; Captain Sarabjeet Singh Parmar, Executive Director, National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; and Maj. Gen Arun Roye, AVSM, VSM (Retd.), Vice-President, CENERS-K. ■

Third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links, 7- 8 October 2021



Delegates of ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links, 7-8 October 2021.

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS) of VASS organised the third International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links (AICCL), held at Hanoi and New Delhi on 7-8 October 2021 in hybrid mode. The third edition of the AICCL was a two-day event, which included five Plenary Sessions and a Special Session on Cultural Cooperation. The five Plenary Sessions were (1) Contemporary Cultural Interactions and Diversity, (2) Culture and Digitalisation, (3) Culture and Tourism, (4) Education and

Youth, and (5) Shared Heritage. In the inaugural session, Special Remarks were extended by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi; Prof. Dr. Dang Nguyen Anh, Vice-President, Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), Hanoi; Ambassador Pranay Verma, Ambassador of India to Vietnam, Hanoi; Ambassador Pham Sanh Chau, Ambassador of Vietnam to India, New Delhi; and Mr. Tran Duc Binh, Dy. Secretary General (DSG) for ASEAN Community and Corporate Affairs, ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta. H.E. Mr.

Nguyen Quoc Dzong, Vice Foreign Minister and ASEAN SOM Leader, Viet Nam delivered Inaugural Address. Dr. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Ministry of External Affairs delivered the Keynote Address. The session was chaired by Dr Mohan Kumar, Chairman, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. H.E. Ms. Pen Moni Makara, SOMCA Chair, Secretary of State and SOMCA Chair, Cambodia delivered a special address in the valedictory session. Ambassador Riva Ganguly Das, Secretary (East), Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) delivered the

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Valedictory Address in that session. Ambassador Jayant N. Khobragade, Ambassador of India to ASEAN, Jakarta and Mr. Kung Phoak, Deputy Secretary-General (DSG) of ASEAN for ASEAN Socio-Cultural Community (ASCC), ASEAN Secretariat, Jakarta delivered the Special Remarks and Special Address respectively on the special session on cultural cooperation between India and ASEAN. Conference Speakers and Chairs were eminent subject experts from India and ASEAN countries. Over 400 delegates including several senior ministers from the ASEAN countries along with senior level officials, subject experts, scholars, practitioners, diplomats, academicians and researchers attended this conference.

In the first session, Mr. Kong Vireak, Deputy Director General of Cultural Heritage, Ministry of Culture and Fine Arts, Cambodia

delivered his remarks. Speakers of session I provided an overview of the history of assimilation and syncretism in the fields of religion, art, architecture, and culture that have characterized India-Southeast Asia relations for more than two millennia. Session 2 underlined the importance of preserving and digitalising the vast corpus of tangible and intangible cultural heritages shared by India and ASEAN countries. The session on cultural and tourism ties between India and ASEAN was addressed in the third session. The fourth session was oriented to explore opportunities of further cooperation between ASEAN and India in the field of education and youth. The last session of the conference deliberated on the affinity between ASEAN and India through an investigation of their shared heritage in the form of tangible remains, particularly

in the museums across the two regions. It stressed the increased responsibility of museums in the preservation and sustained interaction between regions that shared a cultural past. A presentation on ASEAN India Network of Museums (AINM) was made by Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. Several Indian and ASEAN museums took part in this session and observed archaeological and historical links between India and ASEAN countries. Votes of Thanks were extended by Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, Acting Deputy Director General, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS), Hanoi and Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi on-behalf of the VIISAS and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, respectively. ■

Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads, 8-9 July 2021

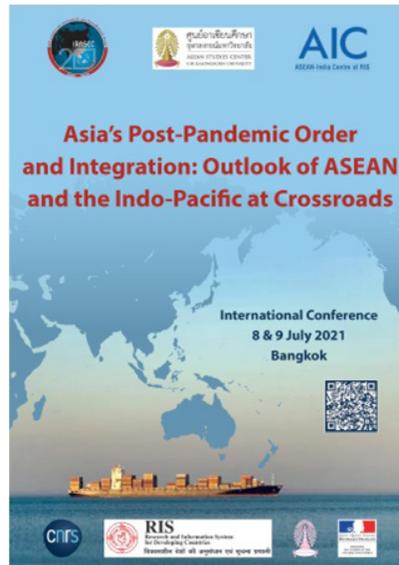
The ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; the Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC-CNRS) in Bangkok, and the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in New Delhi organised an international conference on "Asia's Post-Pandemic Order and Integration: Outlook of ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific at Crossroads" on

8 - 9 July 2021 in virtual mode. The two-day conference had six technical sessions which covered - Southeast Asia between India and China: Reimagining Asia and Regional Indo-Pacific Order; The Indo-Pacific from Southeast Asian Perspectives; Centrality and Multilateralism in Uncertain Times; Geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific: The Interesting Interests of Other Major Powers; Asia's

Post-Pandemic Integration: What the Indo-Pacific Should Stand for?; ASEAN amidst Competing Connectivity Strategic and Integration Challenges; Security Issues and Strategic Challenges in the Indo-Pacific. In the Opening Session, opening remarks were made by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University; Assoc. Prof. Claire

Thi Lien Tran (IRASEC CNRS); and Prof. Prabir De, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS. Ms. Usana Berananda, Director-General, Department of ASEAN Affairs of Thailand; H.E Dr Thierry Mathou, Ambassador of France in Thailand, former Director of the Asia Direction at the French MOFA; and Dr. Mohan Kumar, Former Ambassador of India in France and Chairman, RIS, New Delhi were delivered the remarks on this occasion. In second session regional Indo-Pacific order was discussed in the context of Southeast Asia, India and China. The session was chaired by Prof Surichai Wun'gao, Professor Emeritus, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. The speakers of the session were Prof. Amitav Acharya, School of International Service, American University, Washington, D.C; Dr. Rahul Mishra, Asia-Europe Institute, University of Malaya, Malaysia; and Assist. Prof. Surat Horachaikul, Indian Studies Center and Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University. Southeast Asian Perspectives on Indo-Pacific discussed in the Session 3. Dr Stéphane Dovert, Founder of IRASEC was the moderator of the first segment of session 3. Prof. Dewi Fortuna Anwar, Research Center for Politics-Indonesian Institute of Sciences, Jakarta; Prof. Lau Sim Yee, Faculty of International Studies, Reitaku University, Tokyo; Prof. Joefe Santarita, Asian Center, University of the Philippines, Manila; and Assoc. Prof. Tran Thi Anh Dao, University of Rouen and Research Institute

on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC CNRS), Bangkok were the speakers of the session. The second segment of Session 3 was moderated by Dr. Teh Lip Li, ASEAN Studies Centre,



Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. Speakers of the session were Dr. Vannarith Chheang, Asian Vision Institute and Invest in Cambodia; Prof. Chaw Chaw Sein, International Relations Department, University of Yangon; Assoc. Prof. Panitan Wattanayagorn, Faculty of Political Science, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Assoc. Prof. Claire Tran, Research Institute on Contemporary Southeast Asia (IRASEC), Bangkok; and Dr. Shafiah Muhibat, Department of International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. The Concluding Remarks for the first day of the international conference was extended by Dr. Shafiah Muhibat, Department of International Relations, Centre for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta. Second

day of the conference started with Session 4 and discussed the interests of major powers towards Indo-Pacific. Dr. Claire Tran, Irasec/Univ de Paris chaired the session. Ass. Prof. Hoo Tiang Boon, RSIS; Dr. David Camroux, SciencesPo, Honorary Research Fellow, Center for International Studies (CERI), Prof. Sankari Sundararaman, Centre for Indo-Pacific Studies (CIPS), Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Assoc. Prof. Maiko Ichihara, Graduate School of Law, Hitotsubashi University, Tokyo and visiting scholar at Carnegie Endowment for International Peace; and Dr. Thomas Parks, Asia Foundation, Bangkok were the speakers of the session. The Session 5 highlighted post-pandemic integration and session was moderated by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. The speakers of the session were Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta. Dr. Mia Mikic, Advisor at Large, ARTNeT and Visiting Fellow, Institute for Euro-Asian Studies, Zagreb University; Prof. Amita Batra, Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi; Dr. Anupama Devendrakumar, Faculty of Arts and Sciences, VinUniversity, Vietnam; and Assoc. Prof. Piti Srisangnam, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. The sixth session reviewed the connectivity strategies and its challenges. The session was chaired by Prof. Prabir De, Professor and

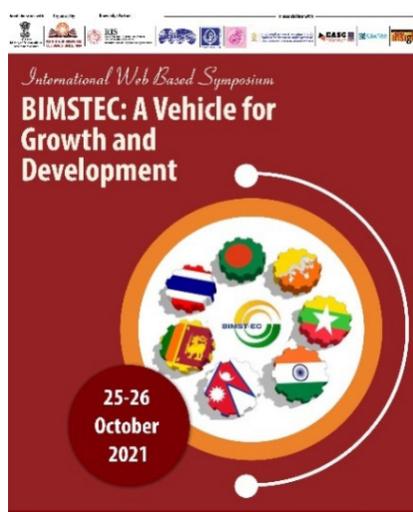
Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New Delhi. The speakers of the session were Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok and Assist. Prof. Charit Tingsabadh, Centre for European Studies and Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Assoc. Prof. Sineenat Sermcheep, Faculty of Economics, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok; Dr. Venkatachalam Anbumozhi, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; and Dr. Jayant Menon, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak

Institute, Singapore. The security perspective in the Indo-Pacific was discussed in Session 7 and the session moderated by Ms. Gwen Robinson (Chulalongkorn University/Nikkei). The speakers of the session were Prof. Jean-Pierre Cabestan, Department of Government and International Studies, Faculty of Social Science, Hong Kong Baptist University, Hong Kong; Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan, Director-General of the National Maritime Foundation (NMF), New Delhi; Dr. Eric Frécon, visiting academic, Universiti Brunei Darussalam and Research Institute on Contemporary

Southeast Asia (IRASEC CNRS); Prof. Arabinda Acharya, Rabdan Academy in Abu Dhabi; Mr. Kavi Chongkittavorn, veteran journalist on regional affairs, Bangkok Post, Bangkok; Ms. Min Zin, University of California, Berkeley, and former director of the Institute of Strategy and Policy, Myanmar. The Concluding Remarks of second day of the conference were extended by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, ASEAN Studies Center, Chulalongkorn University; Assoc. Prof. Claire Thi Lien Tran (IRASEC CNRS), and Prof. Prabir De, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC), RIS. ■

BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development, 25-26 October 2021

Research and Information System for Developing Countries jointly with the Institute of Social and Cultural Studies in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India, and other national and international organization were organised a two day international symposium on BIMSTEC: A Vehicle for Growth and Development on 25-26 October 2021. In the inaugural session, the Opening Remarks was delivered by Mr. Arindam Mukherjee, Director, ISCS, India and Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS, India gave the Welcome Remarks. H.E. Amb. Tenzin Lekphell, Secretary General, BIMSTEC delivered the Special Remarks. Inaugural Address was extended by H.E. Amb. Harsh Vardhan Shringla,



Foreign Secretary, MEA, India. H. E. Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of the State, Ministry of External Affairs, India delivered the Special Address on theme of 25 years of BIMSTEC: A Way Ahead. The programme comprised with four technical sessions and a Special Session

on Cyber Security amongst BIMSTEC nations: Challenges and Prognosis. The special session was chaired by Dr. Uttam Sinha, Head, Non-Traditional Security Centre, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (MP-IDSA) and Lt. Gen. Rajesh Panth, National Cyber Security Coordinator, India was the speaker of the session. The four technical sessions were on post Covid-19 economic recovery and restoring growth momentum in BIMSTEC; strengthening regional value chains-role of connectivity and trade facilitation; regional cooperation in public health infrastructure and health care services; and disaster management, maritime cooperation and coastal security. ■

First India-Korea 2+2 Bilateral Dialogue, 27 October 2021

Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), New Delhi and Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi co-hosted the first India-Republic of Korea 2+2 Dialogue on 27 October 2021 with the Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA) and Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP) of the Republic of Korea on the theme on "Reimagining India-Korea Relations in the Emerging Regional Order: Synergising the 'Act East Policy' and the 'New Southern Policy'".

The conference was segregated into three technical sessions- India-Korea Relations in a Changing Global and Regional Context: Strategic Perspectives, Re-contextualising India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-Covid International Economic Order, and Way Forward: India-Korea Bilateral Relation. In the Inaugural Session, Remarks were made by Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA; Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Dr. Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Ambassador Chang Jaebok, South Korean Ambassador to India; and Ambassador Sripriya Ranganathan, Indian Ambassador to Republic of Korea addressed the dialogue.



Ambassador Nalin Surie, Distinguished Fellow, Delhi Policy Group chaired the Session on India-Korea Relations in a Changing Global and Regional Context: Strategic Perspectives. Speakers of the session were Dr. Cho Wondeuk, Research Professor, KNDA; and Dr. Jagannath Panda, Research Fellow, Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses, New Delhi (MP-IDSA). Dr. Jojin V. John, Research Fellow, ICWA; and Dr. Paik Wooyeal, Associate Professor, Yonsei University were discussant.

The theme of second session was Re-contextualizing India-Korea Economic Partnership in the Post-Covid-19 International Economic Order and was chaired by Dr. Cho Choongjae, Deputy President of Center for Area Studies, KIEP. Professor S.K. Mohanty, RIS; and Dr.

Han Hyoungmin, Associate Research Fellow, KIEP were the speakers. Discussants were: Dr. Lee Soon-Chul, Professor, Busan University of Foreign Studies; and Dr. Priyadarshi Dash, Associate Professor, RIS.

Ambassador Skand Tayal, Former Indian Ambassador to Republic of Korea, moderated the session on Way Forward: India-Korea Bilateral Relations. Speakers were Dr Kim Chanwan, Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies; and Dr. Jitendra Uttam, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

The Concluding Session had the following speakers: Dr. Kim Heungchong, President, KIEP; Dr. Hong Hyunik, Chancellor, KNDA; Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS; and Ambassador Vijay Thakur Singh, Director General, ICWA. ■

ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience, 21 October 2021

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India: Harnessing Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience' on 21 October 2021 in run up to the 18th ASEAN-India and 14th East Asia Summit. The panel consisted of subject experts, academicians, policy planners and practitioners. The webinar discussed the opportunities of the Trilateral Highway, enhanced connectivity between Northeast India and Southeast Asia, disruption and challenges in the supply chains due to the Covid-19 pandemic, and a few other issues. AIC-RIS Report entitled "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for Northeast India" was released. Welcome Remarks was delivered by Prof. Sachin Chaturvedi, Director

General, RIS and the Opening Remarks was given by Dr. Mohan Kumar, Chairman, RIS. Special Remarks were extended by Ms. Alice Cheng, Deputy High Commissioner, High Commission of the Republic of Singapore in India New Delhi and Amb. Jayant N. Khobragade, Indian Ambassador to ASEAN, Jakarta. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, AIC at RIS chaired the panel discussion

and made a presentation on the "Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Implication for Northeast India". Speakers included, Dr. Anbumozhi Venkatachalam, Director of Research Strategy and Innovation, Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), Jakarta; Mr. So Umezaki, Director, Economic Integration Studies Group, Development Studies Center, Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO), Chiba, Japan; Mr. Bharat Joshi, Director, Associated Container Terminals Limited (ACTL), New Delhi; Prof. Ch. Priyoranjan Singh, Department of Economics, Manipur University, Imphal; Dr Tin Htoo Naing, Director, Center for Economy, Environment and Society (CEES Myanmar), Myanmar; and Dr. Pham Cao Cuong, Acting Deputy Director General, Vietnam Institute for Indian and Southwest Asian Studies (VIISAS). Dr Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC at RIS extended the Vote of Thanks. ■

Deepening India-ASEAN Relations: Exploring New Avenues for Engagements, 18 October 2021

The 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related events took place in the last week of October 2021. The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS in collaboration with the Asian Confluence organised a webinar on 'ASEAN-India Summit 2021 and Major Takeaways' on 18 November 2021. The young scholars from various ASEAN countries and India participated in the webinar and discussed outcomes of the recently held ASEAN-India Summit. Welcome Remarks was given by Mr. Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence. Dr. Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC),

RIS, New Delhi chaired the panel discussion. Panellists were Ms. Joanne Lin Weiling, Lead Researcher, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore; Dr. Vo Xuan Vinh, Deputy Director General, Institute for Southeast Asian Studies, VASS, Vietnam; Dr. Shristi Pukhrem, Senior Research Fellow, India Foundation, New Delhi; Mr. Suppawit Kaewkhunok, Researcher, Thailand Political Database Research Centre, Bangkok; Ms. Mahima Duggal, Research Associate, Centre for Air Power Studies (CAPS), New Delhi and Dr. Sampa Kundu, Consultant, AIC, RIS, New Delhi. ■



Review of ASEAN-India FTA: Identifying the Potentials and Challenges for Deepening India-Indonesia Economic Engagement, 29 November 2021

The ASEAN-India Centre at RIS and Embassy of Indonesia jointly organised a panel discussion on ASEAN-India FTA to identify the potentials and challenges for deepening India-Indonesia economic engagement on 29 November 2021 in virtual format. Mr Masni Eriza, Deputy Chief of Mission, Indonesian Embassy in Delhi; and Mr Vishvas Vidu Sapkal, Jt. Secretary (South and Indo-Pacific), MEA delivered the inaugural addresses. The session was moderated by Dr Prabir De, Professor and Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS, New



Delhi. Speakers were Mrs. Dina Kurniasari, Director of ASEAN Negotiations, Ministry of Trade, Indonesia; Ms Indu Nair, Director, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, India; Dr Lina Alexandra, Senior Researcher, Department of International Relations, Centre of Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), Jakarta; and Mr. Pranav Kumar, Head, International Trade, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi. The eminent panel discussed the prospects of India-Indonesia economic engagements in light of ASEAN-India FTA Review. ■

Panel Discussion on Building Post Covid-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific, 29 July 2021

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi organised a panel discussion on theme of Building Post Covid-19 Economic Resilience in Asia and Pacific on 29 July, 2021. The programme started with the welcome remarks by Professor Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, RIS. The panelists were Dr Sweta Sexena, Chief, Macroeconomics Policy and Analysis, UNESCAP; Professor Ram Upendra Das, Head and Professor, Centre for Regional Trade and Mr. Rajan Sudesh Ratna, Economic Affairs Officer, ESCAP-SSWA. The discussion featured policy dialogue on promoting economic



resilience and the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region during the post-Covid-19 recovery. The panelists addressed issues pertaining to resilient economic recovery, financing challenges

and climate-related sovereign risk management in Asia and the Pacific in general and India in particular. Dr Pankaj Vashisht, Associate Professor, RIS extended the vote of thanks. ■

Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific, 23 September 2021

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi organised a

webinar on 'Maritime Economy in Indo-Pacific' on 23 September 2021. Professor S. K. Mohanty

delivered the Welcome Remarks and Dr Malini V. Shankar chaired the webinar. The Special Remarks was delivered by H. E. Niluka Kadurugamuwa, Deputy High Commissioner of Sri Lanka to India. Dr Ganeshan Wignaraja, Adjunct Senior Fellow, RIS, made a paper presentation on 'Maritime Trade in Indo-Pacific'. Dr Vishwapati Trivedi, Formerly Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Mines, Government of India was the discussant. The webinar explored the opportunities of maritime sector cooperation in building comprehensive Indo-Pacific architecture. ■

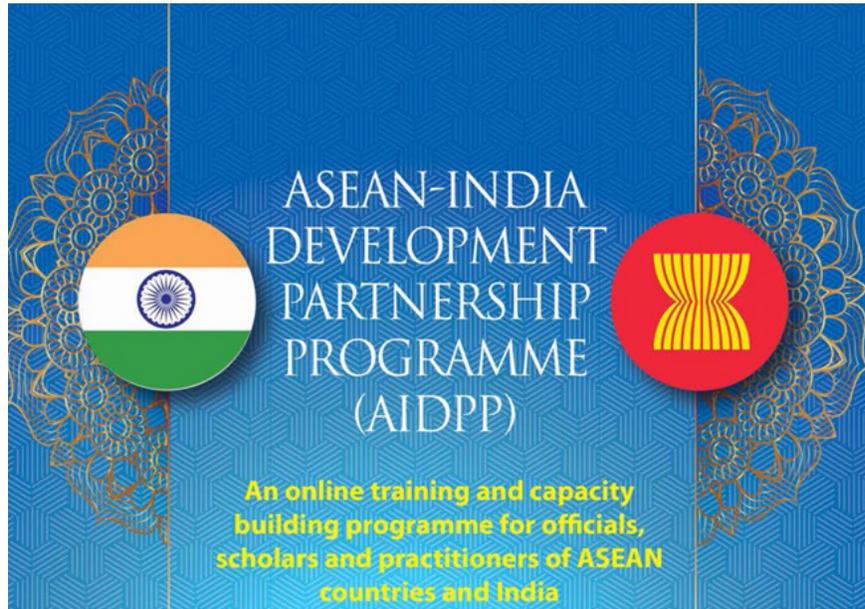


ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP): An Online Training and Capacity Building Programme, 16-20 August 2021

Supported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), the ASEAN India Development Partnership Programme (AIDPP) was hosted jointly by the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS; Asian Confluence and the ASEAN Studies Centre of ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore on 16-20 August 2021. The AIDPP programme comprised with several lectures and interactive sessions that include geo-politics, economic relations, trade and investment, connectivity, trade facilitation and priority sectors for the ASEAN-India relations. The programme had five technical sessions and each session addressed two areas in a day.

The Welcome Remarks were delivered by Mr. Sabysachi Dutta, Executive Director, Asian Confluence; Dr. Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi; and Ms. Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow and Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore.

The Session I was moderated by Prof. Suthiphand Chirathivat, Chairman, ASEAN Studies Centre, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok. In this session, Dr Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India



Centre at RIS, New Delhi and Ms Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore were focused on three decades of ASEAN-India relations; and strategic imperatives of ASEAN-India relations was discussed by Prof. Harsh V. Pant, Director, Studies and Head of the Strategic Studies Programme, Observer Research Foundation (ORF), New Delhi.

Deepening ASEAN-India trade integration: facilitation and Non-Tariff Measures reforms; and changing profile of ASEAN-India investment relations and B2B engagements were the two dynamic issues

captured in Session II. Dr Jayant Menon, Visiting Senior Fellow, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore chaired the session. Dr Sithanonxay Suvannaphakdy, Lead Researcher (Economics), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Mr Pranav Kumar, Head, International Relations, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), New Delhi discussed the topic respectively.

Session III highlighted issues on multilateralism in post-Covid-19 world; and ASEAN-India in the Indo-Pacific. The session was moderated by the Ms Sharon Seah, Senior Fellow, Coordinator, ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof

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Training and Capacity Building

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Ishak Institute, Singapore. Ms Hoang Thi Ha, Lead Researcher (Political and Security), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS-Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Ms. Jane Chan, Senior Fellow, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Singapore made their presentation respectively.

Mr Rajat Nag, Member, Governing Council, ASCON, New Delhi chaired the Session IV where the issues relating to ASEAN-India connectivity was discussed by Dr Prabir De, Professor, Coordinator, ASEAN-India Centre at RIS, New Delhi and Prof. Ruth Banomyong,

Department of International Business, Thammasat Business School, Thammasat University, Bangkok. The session also covered production networks and ASEAN and India in shifting global supply chains and Prof. Fukunari Kimura, Chief Economist, ERIA, Jakarta delivered his lecture on this.

The last Session V comprised with two relevant issues of ASEAN-India relation which include fostering people to people contacts; and ASEAN and India's progress on SDGs: opportunities for collaboration. The session was moderated by Dr. Prabir De, Coordinator,

ASEAN India Centre at RIS, New Delhi.

Mr. Sanjay Pulipaka, Senior Fellow, Delhi Policy Group (DPG), New Delhi and Mr Sabyasachi Dutta, Executive Director, ASCON, Shillong covered the first topic of the last session. ASEAN and India's Progress on SDGs was discussed by Ms Melinda Martinus, Lead Researcher (Socio-Cultural), ASEAN Studies Centre, ISEAS - Yusof Ishak Institute, Singapore and Dr P K Anand, Visiting Fellow, RIS, New Delhi. An overwhelming number of participants attended this programme. ■

ASEAN-India Activities

Remarks by Indian Prime Minister at the 18th India-ASEAN Summit, 28 October, 2021

We all faced a lot of challenges due to the Covid-19 pandemic. But this challenging time in a way was also the test of India-ASEAN friendship. Our mutual cooperation and mutual sympathy since Covid times will continue to strengthen our relationship in future and will be the basis of goodwill among our people. History is witness that India and ASEAN have had vibrant relations for thousands of years. This is also reflected in our shared values, traditions, languages, texts, architecture, culture, cuisine

etc. And therefore, 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. The 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. Now I look forward to hearing your views. ■

(Excerpted from Remarks by Prime Minister of India at the 18th India-ASEAN Summit, H. E. Shri Narendra Modi. Prime Minister, Government of India, 28 October, 2021)

Opening Remarks by External Affairs Minister at the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting, 4 August, 2021

The broader context, in which we approach our relationship today, as indeed anything else of significance is undeniably that of the Covid-19 crisis. We have noted how ASEAN members have purposefully responded to it, individually and collectively. These challenges have also brought ASEAN and India even closer, as we have extended practical support to each other during these times of stress. Across the world, ASEAN is held up as a good example of successful regionalism, multilateralism and globalization. This year's theme of 'We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper' under the able chairmanship of Brunei succinctly captures the outlook of ASEAN. I am confident that

this theme applies equally to our partnership as well.

It is also a testimony to the success of ASEAN that it is widely perceived as the foundation of the evolving strategic and economic architecture of the larger region. That ASEAN-led initiatives have established their salience across so many domains speaks for itself. India is committed to supporting a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN, one whose centrality in the Indo-Pacific is fully appreciated. The strong convergence between the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and the Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI) proposed by India adds another dimension to our contemporary partnership. India's ties with the ASEAN are, of course, rooted

in history and strengthened by proximity. Together, these are factors that can help us achieve a vision of a more 'connected' India and ASEAN. This will naturally require the realization of a dedicated set of initiatives which, of course, constitute the core of our collaborative agenda. The year 2022 will be marking the 30th anniversary of our relations. We agreed to commemorate this important occasion by celebrating it as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year. Let's work together to make this a grand success! ■

(Excerpted from Remarks by External Affairs Minister of India at the ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers Meeting, H. E. (Dr) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Government of India, 4 August, 2021)

Address by the External Affairs Minister at the Celebration of 5th Anniversary of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016-2021), 17 December, 2021

Five years ago, I had the honour of accompanying Prime Minister Narendra Modi on his visit to Vietnam when it was agreed that we would establish a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. We have come some distance since then and have good reason to be satisfied with the state of progress. Yet, this is both an occasion to take stock as well as to look forward

into the future. We also stand close to another milestone; next year will mark the 50th anniversary of the establishment of India-Vietnam diplomatic relations. The mutual trust and sincere bonds of friendship that have developed over this half century has matured into a partnership that we see today. And it is truly a wide ranging one, that encompasses

political engagement, trade and investment ties, energy cooperation, development partnership, defence and security cooperation, and people-to-people relations.

As political and security partners, India and Vietnam have converging interests in a multi-polar and rebalancing world. We have been supportive of each other's objectives, whether in

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ASEAN-India Activities

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ASEAN-led forums or on global platforms. Our cooperation in the UN Security Council this year has been exemplary. Our shared respect for international law, including UNCLOS 1982, and a rules-based order is a strong commonality. It is this larger vision of how we wish to see the world evolve that really brings us together. We are both societies that are fiercely independent and deeply committed to maintaining our freedom of choices. These traits make us the foundation of a multi-polar Asia in the coming years.

On the economic front, our trade has been robust even in the midst of global uncertainties. It crossed the US\$ 10 billion mark in 2020, and is likely to exceed US\$ 12 billion this year. To realize its full potential, however, we should work towards promoting reliable, efficient and resilient supply chain systems. And fashion a complementarity between India's vision of self-reliance and Vietnam's growing economic vitality. We hope that the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement that is under review will help expand our trade targets.

Our development partnership is another noteworthy aspect of our ties. India has shared its experience in the fields of IT, science & technology, defence, agriculture, and space. We have contributed to both institution building and human resource development in Vietnam. Under the Mekong Ganga Cooperation framework, India has been implementing Quick Impact Projects (QIPs)

in Vietnam, numbering 37 in 33 provinces to date. These projects are not only bringing benefits to the local community, but also helping Vietnam in reaching its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The close friendship between India and Vietnam is underpinned by its two millennia old historical and cultural linkages. The Archaeological Survey of India has been a particularly effective vehicle to rediscover these roots. Many of you would recall the recent finding of a 9th century monolithic Shiva Linga by ASI experts at the My Son Temple complex. As the virtual summit decided, in December last year, we intend to expand our activities now to cover another block of the Cham Temple at My Son, the Dong Duong monastery at Quang Nam and the Nhan Cham Tower at Phu Yen.

India's Act East Policy has been the guiding principle of our engagements with ASEAN partners and Vietnam is no exception. The success of this policy has led us to adopt a larger Indo-Pacific approach that captures India's growing strategic interests more effectively. From the Indian perspective, Vietnam is a key partner both in the ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific context. We already have a substantial agenda underway whether it is in commerce, connectivity or culture. Our political and defence cooperation has also been steadily growing. These can be further buttressed by interaction between the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific and the

Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative that has been proposed by India.

The visit of the high-level Vietnamese delegation today, led by His Excellency the President, only underscores how much we can do with greater ambition and higher commitment. The contacts between our parliamentary leadership is a source of support for the executive as it aims higher. In your presence, Mr. President, three MOUs have been signed on Parliamentary cooperation, Information & Technology and Marine sciences. Two letters of intent have also been concluded in the domain of posts and digital media. 12 business MOUs have been signed between our enterprises. All these point to the upward trajectory of our ties.

The last five years of the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership have been very productive. The next decade must be even more so. At a time of global uncertainty and post-Covid economic recovery, the India-Vietnam partnership will be a significant stabilizing factor in the Indo-Pacific. Keeping our national ambitions and global responsibilities in mind, we must forge ahead. It is most appropriate that this important anniversary is marked by the presence of such a high-level delegation from Vietnam. The message that this sends of our friendship will surely resonate. ■

(Excerpted from Remarks by External Affairs Minister of India at the celebration of 5th Anniversary of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016-2021), H. E. (Dr) Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister, Government of India, 17 December, 2021)

Keynote Address by Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs at 3rd International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilisational Links, 7 October, 2021

India and ASEAN share civilizational contacts which are deep-rooted and abiding. Our geo-strategic location linking the Indian Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, with common entry and exit points, has helped further strengthen these links. The maritime routes to South East Asia allowed for the intermingling of our cultures. The trade routes linked ancient India with southern Burma, central and southern Siam, lower Cambodia and southern Vietnam, to the archipelago of Sumatra, Java and Bali and numerous other urbanized coastal settlements. The allure of Srivijaya and Suvarnabhumi and spices in Southeast Asia, invited many Indian traders to sail to this region, with monks on board to offer prayers in case of natural disasters. Traders and monks gave way to the settlers who lent their own unique flavour to the evolution of religion, culture, society and polity of the regions they adopted as their home. Through traders, monks, scholars and migrants cultural exchanges took place between India and distant parts of East and South East Asia. Greater study and research into the historical linkages with the ASEAN region have helped us in developing a

better understanding of our own historical past.

Our ancient interactions demonstrate South East Asia's widespread religious and political affinities with the Indian sub-continent. The two biggest religions of South-East Asia spread from/ through India subcontinent. The archaeological remains of magnificent Hindu and Buddhist civilizations scattered throughout South East Asia like the UNESCO heritage site of Angkor Vat or the Ta Prohm in Cambodia, the Vat Phou temple in Lao PDR, Ananda temple in Bagan, Myanmar, the Borobudur Buddhist temples in Indonesia, the My Son Temple Complex and the Cham Monuments in Vietnam, the Dvaravati sites associated with Mon inhabitants in Thailand, the Pyu settlements in present day Myanmar show evidence of the earliest contacts between India and ASEAN countries. They are evident examples of the close exchanges between India and ASEAN since ancient times. The fact that the World's biggest temple is located not in India but in Cambodia, exemplifies the depth of our cultural exchange.

This cultural affinity is visible not only in buildings and monuments but also in our

folklore and mythology. The Indian epics of Ramayana and Mahabharata are as popular in ASEAN countries as they are in India. The various forms of Ramayana prevalent in the region, be it Ramakien in Thailand, Pha Lak Pha Lam in Laos, Yama Zattdaw in Myanmar, Kakawin Ramayana in Indonesia or Hikayat Seri Rama in Malaysia narrate the similar story of Ram and Ravana. Even today, the coronation ceremony of Thai kings is performed with Indian rituals. Similarly, the languages of our two regions share a lot of common words. Sanskrit Inscriptions dating back to early South Eastern Civilizations have been found at various sites from Vietnam to Indonesia. All these bears testimony to our strong historical connect.

ASEAN region has immense wealth in the form of historical monuments which stand witness to our common cultural heritage. Preservation and restoration of this historical treasure is a priority in our cultural cooperation. The restoration of cultural/ heritage sites in the region has added a new dimension to India and ASEAN's multifaceted and excellent relations in the region. Prominent among them have been the restoration of Angkor

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Vat in Cambodia, Ta Prohm temple in Cambodia and Wat Phou temple in Laos, Cham monuments in Vietnam. Efforts are ongoing to piece the heritage of the past and convert them to living monuments drawing the attention of scholars and tourists across the world. The ancient socio-cultural relations and linkages have also found

contemporary expression in the form of the Mekong Ganga Cooperation, a sub-regional grouping aimed at reviving cooperation between the peoples of the Mekong and Ganga river basins in the fields of tourism, education, culture and people-to-people contacts. An MGC Museum of Asian Textiles has been set up in Siem Reap,

Cambodia, not far from the famous Angkor Wat, showcasing affinities in our weaving and textiles. ■

(Excerpted from Remarks by Minister of State for External Affairs at 3rd International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilisational Links, H. E. (Dr) Rajkumar Ranjan Singh, Minister of State for External Affairs, Government of India, 7 October, 2021)

Prime Minister Co-Chairs the 18th India-ASEAN Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participated in the 18th India-ASEAN Summit. The Summit was held virtually and saw participation from the Leaders of ASEAN Member States. Highlighting the milestone of 30th anniversary of India-ASEAN Partnership, the leaders announced the Year 2022 as India-ASEAN Friendship Year. Prime Minister underlined the centrality of ASEAN in India's Act East Policy and in India's Vision for the wider Indo-Pacific Vision. Building upon the synergies between the ASEAN Outlook for the Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI), PM and ASEAN leaders welcomed the adoption of the India-ASEAN Joint Statement on cooperation for peace, stability and prosperity in the region. On Covid-19, the Prime Minister highlighted India's efforts in the fight against the pandemic in the region and also reiterated support for ASEAN's initiatives in this regard. India

has contributed medical supplies worth US\$ 200,000 to ASEAN's humanitarian initiative for Myanmar and US\$ 1 million for ASEAN's Covid-19 Response Fund. The leaders exchanged views on enhancing India-ASEAN connectivity in broadest terms including physical, digital and people to people. To further strengthen India-ASEAN cultural connectivity, Prime Minister announced India's support for establishing the ASEAN Cultural Heritage List. On trade and investment, he underlined the importance of diversification and resilience of supply chains for post-Covid economic recovery and in this regard, the need to revamp the India-ASEAN FTA. The ASEAN leaders appreciated India's role as a trusted partner in the region especially during the current Covid-19 Pandemic with its supply of vaccine. They also welcomed India's support to ASEAN centrality in the Indo-Pacific and looked forward to greater India-ASEAN

cooperation in the region through the Joint Statement. The discussions also covered regional and international issues of common interest and concern, including South China Sea and terrorism. Both sides noted the importance of promoting a rules-based order in the region including through upholding adherence to international law, especially the UNCLOS. The leaders affirmed the importance of maintaining and promoting peace, stability, safety and security in the South China Sea, and ensuring freedom of navigation and overflight. India and ASEAN share a deep, robust and multifaceted relationship and the 18th India-ASEAN Summit provided an opportunity to review the various facets of this relationship and give a direction to the future of the India-ASEAN Strategic Partnership at the highest level. ■

(Excerpted from www.pib.gov.in on 28 October 2021)

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Piyush Goyal Pushes for ASEAN FTA Renegotiation

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal called for a renegotiation of the India-ASEAN free trade agreement (FTA), to prevent its misuse by 'third parties' and remove trade restrictions as well as non-tariff barriers. "It is unfortunate that in the recent past, we had to deal with several restrictive barriers on our exports in the ASEAN region, particularly in

the agriculture and auto sectors. I think this only resulted in reciprocal action from other countries, including from India, and will hurt the long-term desire of our leaders to expand trade between the two sides," Mr. Goyal said on 8 October 2021. Underlining the need for 'renegotiating' the existing FTA Mr Goyal said the focus needs to be on new rules to eliminate the

misuse of the FTA 'often by third parties outside the ASEAN'. Both sides also needed to bring down non-tariff barriers which can ultimately also lead to more confidence to reduce tariffs for inter-ASEAN and India trade, the minister said.

(Excerpted from www.thehindu.com on 8.10.2021)

© The Hindu

Top Buyer India to Favour Malaysian Palm Oil as Indonesian Prices Rise -Association

India is likely to buy more Malaysian palm oil after export levies imposed by top producer Indonesia hit record highs in the past year, B.V. Mehta, executive director of India's Solvent Extractors' Association, said on 2 December. Indonesia had imposed higher export taxes and levies in the past year, making prices of palm oil - which had already reached record highs this year - more costly for the top buyer. "Indonesia's share of palm oil imports by India earlier was nearly 70-75%," Mehta told

the annual Indonesian Palm Oil Conference. "Heavy export duty and levies being imposed by Indonesia (are) discouraging Indian refiners to buy from Indonesia," he said, adding that in January-September this year, Indonesia's share of Indian palm oil imports had dropped to 55 per cent, while Malaysia's had jumped 45per cent. Indonesia started taxing crude palm oil exports again after three years absence in February last year, while export levies for the edible oil reached a record high of US\$

255 per tonne in February earlier this year. In an effort to cool near-record price rises, India cut base import taxes on palm oil, soyoil and sunflower oil in September. Indonesia set its crude palm oil export reference price higher for December, meaning that palm oil taxes and levies remain at the top bracket of US\$200 per tonne and US\$175 per tonne, respectively. ■

(Excerpted from www.reuters.com on 2 December 2021)

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Japan-India-Vietnam Trilateral Could be Created for Indo-Pacific Stability

Vietnam's PM Pham Minh Chin's recent visit to Japan to strengthen strategic partnership aimed at creating peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific region amid China's hegemonistic designs has opened up the creation of a prospective trilateral - Japan-India-Vietnam which can

be termed as JIV. While there has been no formal move to create this trilateral in the Indo-Pacific region, there is enough potential for such a grouping amid expanding strategic ties between India and Japan, India and Vietnam and Vietnam and Japan. This would be appropriate

as India and Vietnam celebrate 50 years of creation of diplomatic ties in 2022. Ahead of this, the Chairman of National Assembly of Vietnam plan to visit India in December.

(Excerpted from www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com on 2 December 2021)

© The Economic Times

ASEAN Could Tap India's Vibrant Technology and Startup Scene, Says Singapore PM

"The 10-nation ASEAN bloc could tap India's vibrant technology and start-up scene to grow and facilitate finance and trade in practical ways," Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong has said, underlining that the grouping values India's support amid an evolving regional

architecture. Speaking at the annual India-ASEAN summit on 28 October, Lee said that digital transformation and public health cooperation are priority areas, Singapore is committed to pursuing as coordinator for ASEAN-India relations. He said that the ASEAN bloc could

tap India's vibrant technology and start-up scene to grow and facilitate finance and trade in practical ways. ■

(Excerpted from www.thehindu.com on 28 October 2021)

© The Hindu

India-Vietnam Partnership will be Significant Stabilising Factor in Indo-Pacific: EAM

At a time of global uncertainty and post-Covid economic recovery, the India-Vietnam partnership will be a significant stabilising factor in the Indo-Pacific, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar said on 17 December. Addressing an event to mark the fifth anniversary of the India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, Jaishankar said India's Act East Policy has been the guiding principle of our engagements with ASEAN partners, and Vietnam is no exception. "The success of this policy has led us to adopt a larger Indo-Pacific approach that captures India's growing strategic interests more effectively. From the Indian perspective, Vietnam is a key partner both in the ASEAN and the Indo-Pacific context," he said. "We already have a substantial agenda underway whether it is in commerce, connectivity

or culture. Our political and defence cooperation has also been steadily growing. These can be further buttressed by interaction between the ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific and the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative that has been proposed by India," the minister said. Jaishankar said the last five years of the comprehensive strategic partnership between India and Vietnam have been very productive. "The next decade must be even more so. At a time of global uncertainty and post-Covid economic recovery, the India-Vietnam partnership will be a significant stabilising factor in the Indo-Pacific. Keeping our national ambitions and global responsibilities in mind, we must forge ahead," he said. Jaishankar said the mutual trust and sincere bonds of friendship that have developed over this half-century have matured into a partnership.

"And it is truly a wide ranging one that encompasses political engagement, trade and investment ties, energy cooperation, development partnership, defence and security cooperation, and people-to-people relations," he said. "It crossed the USD 10 billion mark in 2020, and is likely to exceed US\$ 12 billion this year. To realise its full potential, however, we should work towards promoting reliable, efficient and resilient supply chain systems and fashion a complementarity between India's vision of self-reliance and Vietnam's growing economic vitality. We hope that the ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement that is under review will help expand our trade targets," he added. ■

(Excerpted from www.news18.com on 17 December 2021)

© NEWS18

Brunei-India Ties Special, Says Outgoing Envoy

The ties between India and Brunei Darussalam is special and the Sultanate plays an important role in strengthening India's relationship with ASEAN, particularly from 2012 to 2015 when Brunei was the country coordinator for India. This was said by Indian High Commissioner to Brunei Darussalam Ajaneesh Kumar during a farewell lunch hosted

by the Indian High Commission in Brunei Darussalam. The high commissioner said, "The mission has taken some initiatives to strengthen our economic engagements. To help develop collaboration in the pharmaceutical sector, the mission is in contact with both Indian and local pharmaceutical companies to facilitate linkages including investments in the

sector." He also noted that culture plays an important role in bringing the people from both the countries closer. He endeavoured to foster closer cultural relations between the two countries and increase people to people linkages. ■

(Excerpted from www.thestar.com on 30 December 2021)

© The Star

India for Speeding up Connectivity Projects with ASEAN

External affairs minister S Jaishankar said India will support the initiative for ASEAN integration through capacity-building initiatives and also contribute through Mekong-Ganga cooperation and quick impact projects. India on 04 December called for the speeding up of regional connectivity projects with members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), including the trilateral highway with Myanmar and Thailand and the Kaladan transit transport project. While speaking at the virtual ASEAN-India foreign ministers meeting, external affairs minister S Jaishankar said New Delhi was also looking to an early review of the trade in goods agreement. In a set of tweets, Jaishankar described the meeting as "substantive and

fruitful". India, he tweeted, was looking forward to "accelerate our connectivity projects, especially trilateral highway and Kaladan project". The Indian side has helped construct two key stretches of the 1,360-km trilateral highway in Myanmar, but work on several other sections and the upgrade of nearly 70 bridges has been held up by a variety of factors. India believes the highway, which will run from Moreh in Manipur to Mae Sot in Thailand, will allow it to access markets across the ASEAN region and boost people-to-people ties. Work on the US\$ 484 million Kaladan project, which will connect Kolkata port with Sittwe port in Myanmar's Rakhine state, has been affected by the activities of militant groups such as the Arakan Army and land acquisition issues on

the Indian side. India has been pushing for a review of the India-ASEAN trade in goods agreement, which entered into force in January 2010. Under the pact, the ASEAN states and India agreed to open their markets by progressively reducing and eliminating duties on 76.4 per cent coverage of goods.

The Indian side believes an early review of the agreement will help achieve the true trade potential between the two sides. The review is expected to include issues such as customs procedures, exchange of data and further liberalisation of trade. ■

(Excerpted from www.hindustantimes.com on 4 August 2021, by Rezaul H Laskar)

© Hindustan Times

India's Exports to ASEAN Estimated at \$46 billion in FY22: MoS Anupriya Patel

Union Minister of State for Commerce and Industry Anupriya Patel on 23 August said that India is expected to export US\$ 46 billion to ASEAN in the financial year 2022. She inaugurated the "India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit" organised by the Engineering Exports Promotion Council (EEPC) with support from the Ministry of External Affairs and the Department of Commerce. She said "As one of the largest destinations for Indian exports, ASEAN will be an important region for India with an export target of US\$ 46 billion in meeting the global export target of US\$ 400 billion in the financial year 2021-22." "Both India and ASEAN have large share of skilled population, robust service and manufacturing sectors and there are many complementary

sectors and products available for greater cooperation. With a combined economy of approx. US\$ 5.8 trillion, there is significant potential for enhancing trade and investment partnership between India and ASEAN." Patel further said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has set a target of US\$ 400 billion of merchandise exports for fiscal 2021-22 and also envisioned a roadmap to achieve this milestone. "As a part of the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan, the Central government has recently approved the Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme worth US\$ 26 billion covering 13 sectors, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, solar modules, speciality steel, automobiles, and medical devices for attracting investment and enhancing India's manufacturing

capabilities," she said. Supported by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Ministry of External Affairs, the four-day India-ASEAN Engineering Partnership Summit is expected to see the participation of over 300 delegates from the Indian industry. A sizable number of delegates from ASEAN countries will also join the summit. The summit will also cover B2B meetings and interactions. The thematic sessions include country sessions, and emerging areas of cooperation like Industry 4.0, integration of MSME in the regional value chain. The Government of Tamil Nadu joined the event as "Partner State" while the Government of Haryana as the "Focus State". ■

(Excerpted from www.livemint.com on 25 August 2021)

© Mint

India Achieves another Milestone in Bilateral Development Cooperation with Cambodia

India achieved another important milestone 27 September in its bilateral development cooperation with Cambodia when it handed over the final phase of the project for "Supply and installation of 1500 hand pumps for augmentation of Rural Water Supply in Cambodia". India's Minister of State of External Affairs Dr Rajkumar Ranjan Singh and Cambodia's Minister of Rural Development Dr Ouk Rabun presided over the handover

ceremony. Embassy of India in a press release 27 September, said that the Government of India financed the implementation of the project through a 100 per cent grant. The project led to the supply and installation of 1500 Handpumps in two provinces of Cambodia, namely Tboung Khmum and Banteay Meanchey. The Embassy said the project started in 2017 and ended last year. In last two year, all the 1500 hand pumps were installed and handed over to the community

for their daily use. However, the handover/completion ceremony could not take place due to the Covid-19 pandemic situation. The Embassy said India looks forward to being a vital partner in Cambodia's economic development, through the continuation of capacity-building efforts, financial support in terms of grants and concessional loans. ■

(Excerpted from www.khmertimeskh.com on 28 September 2021)

© Khmer Times

Indian Industry Inks 12 Business MoUs with Vietnam

As many as 12 MOUs were exchanged on 17 December 2021 between Vietnamese and Indian enterprises in the fields of public health, provision of pharmaceutical materials, drug and vaccine production, oil and gas, information technology and technology transfer, education, and tourism. The occasion was the visit of Vuong Dinh Hue, President of the National Assembly of Vietnam. India and Vietnam have shared a long-standing traditional relationship that has been cultivated by leaders from both countries. They established Diplomatic Relations in 1972, which over time evolved into a Strategic Partnership in 2007 and further

into a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in 2016. Trade and investment cooperation has been one of the main pillars of bilateral relations between these two nations. Trade and investment cooperation between Vietnam and India has achieved positive results in recent years, but it is still modest and not commensurate with the potential and advantages of both sides. The economies of the two countries have many similarities, which can support and complement each other for mutual development. Specifically, India can become a supplier of input materials, for Vietnam in industries such as textiles and garments, shoes and leather, and machine

manufacturing; at the same time, creating more favorable conditions for Vietnamese products, such as consumer goods, electronics, agricultural and aquatic products, wood products, rubber, to penetrate deeply into the Indian market. Besides, Vietnam also offers a wide scope for cooperation and mutual support in the fields of textiles and garments, high-tech agriculture, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, information technology, energy, infrastructure, and mining.

(Excerpted from www.economicstimes.indiatimes.com on 8.10.2021, By Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury)

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AIC Publications (July-December 2021)



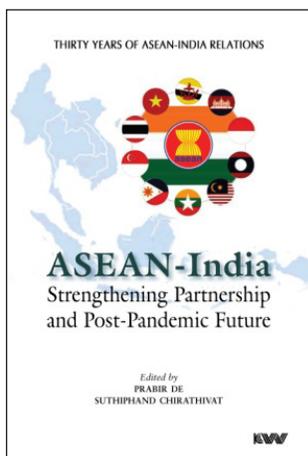
Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific

The ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS edited the proceedings of the 11th edition of Delhi Dialogue entitled “Advancing Partnership in Indo-Pacific” presents a detailed account of discussions of the Delhi Dialogue XI which was held on 13-14 December 2019 in New Delhi. It also presents summary, key recommendation, speeches and the set of papers presented at the conference. The proceeding covers some important areas of cooperation between ASEAN and India in respect to evolving concept Indo-Pacific, namely, Emerging Architecture of Indo-Pacific; Regional Connectivity in Indo-Pacific; Industrial Revolution 4.0 and Indo-Pacific; Future of Multilateral Trading System. This volume is an important resource for the current phase of ASEAN-India partnership and the new engagements in Indo-Pacific.



Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC): Achievements and Way Forward

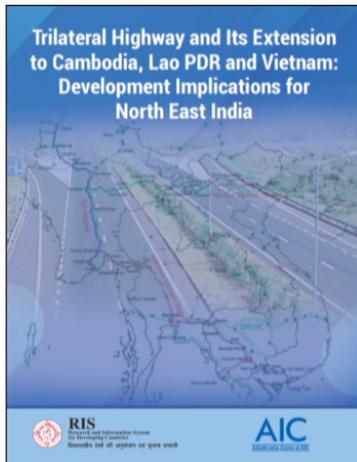
Launched in Vientiane, Lao PDR in 2000, the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC) completed twenty years in 2020. The MGC initiative is a sub-regional cooperation organisation comprising India and five ASEAN countries, namely, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam. To commemorate the 20 years of establishment of MGC, the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA) in collaboration with the ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) at RIS organised an international conference entitled "Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC)" on 5-6 November 2020 at New Delhi in virtual mode. Edited by Dr Prabir De, this volume is an outcome of the aforesaid conference, and examines the connected past, present, and future of MGC. This commemorative volume presents a selected set of papers, which were presented at the aforesaid conference. Although the economic engagements between India and Mekong have been limited, there is further scope to scale up our economic relations. This book shows the path to strengthen the MGC partnership in the third decade of its establishment.



Thirty Years of ASEAN-India Relations: Strengthening Partnership and Post-Pandemic Future

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and India are bound together by their shared history and culture. Relation with ASEAN is one of the cornerstones of India's Foreign Policy. Starting in 1992, when India joined ASEAN as a sectoral dialogue partner, ASEAN and India are going to complete thirty years of their bilateral relations in 2022. The ongoing pandemic has imposed many global and regional challenges. Moving from cooperation to integration, there is a need to jointly address challenges to strengthening the partnership between ASEAN and India in various areas. Edited by Dr Prabir De and Dr Suthiphand Chirathivat, this book addresses some of these challenges in a lucid manner. It presents a set of 15 research papers, which were presented at the sixth ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT) roundtable in 2020. Divided in five major sections, this volume reviews some of the achievements of ASEAN-India relations while completing three decades of partnership, and presents a set of new agenda for the fourth decade. It also underlines the desire of the ASEAN countries and India to diversify and further strengthen the relations in the third decade. This volume is also published to commemorate the thirty years of ASEAN-India relations.

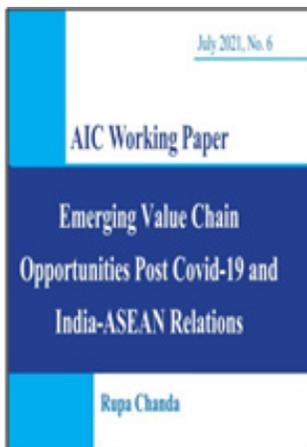
AIC Publications (July-December 2021)



Trilateral Highway and Its Extension to Cambodia, Lao PDR and Vietnam: Development Implications for North East India

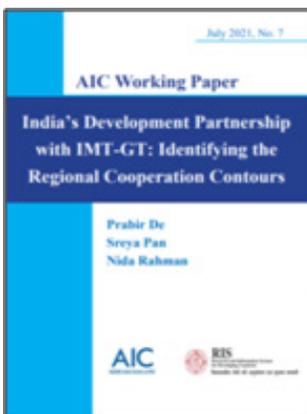
This Report assesses the status of the economic linkages of the NER, identifies the constraints behind and at the India–Myanmar border, and recommends policy measures to augment the linkages between the NER and Southeast Asia. This study also reviews the institutional arrangements and identifies key elements that may hinder the movement of goods and people across the India–Myanmar border along the TH. It also analyses the development impacts of the TH on India’s NER.

AIC Working Papers



Emerging Value Chain Opportunities Post -COVID19 and India-ASEAN Relations, AIC Working Paper No. 6, July 2021 by Rupa Chanda

This working paper explores the sectors and particular niches, where India may have potential opportunities to enter and expand its role in GVCs in the world and specifically in its relations with ASEAN, in a post-Covid scenario. It outlines existing GVC participation trends and patterns for India and ASEAN to identify areas of strength on both sides and complementarities between the two. It also focuses on possibilities for services linkages and for servicification between India and ASEAN, i.e., how India could leverage its services capabilities to enter the manufacturing value chain in the ASEAN countries.



India’s Development Partnership with IMT-GT: Identifying the Regional Cooperation Contours, AIC Working Paper No. 7, August 2021 by Prabir De, Sreya Pan and Nida Rahman,

The Indonesia-Malaysia-Thailand Growth Triangle (IMT-GT) initiative is aimed towards invigorating economic development in Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand. IMT-GT provides a sub-regional framework to promote economic cooperation and integration. India is IMT-GT’s civilizational partner. India’s development partnership with Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand under the framework of IMT-GT could see a rejuvenation from the partnership relished within the ASEAN framework. This article discusses the aspects of the IMT-GT, their line of activities and projects and programmes. It also looks into the opportunities arising from India’s cooperation with the IMT-GT.



Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI): Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport: Suggested Action Plans, AIC Working Paper No. 8, December 2021 by Prabir De

Indo-Pacific is a multipolar region with geographical coverage in the Indian and the Pacific oceans. Indo-Pacific participating countries strongly believe in a region that is free, open and inclusive, and one that is founded upon a cooperative and collaborative rules-based order. India occupies a prominent position in the Indian Ocean in terms of geographical, cultural and civilisational linkages. To strengthen the Indo-Pacific partnership, India has introduced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI) in 2019. Indo-Pacific participating countries recognise that maritime connectivity is a prime catalyst for international trade competitiveness and economic growth. Tariff is no longer the prime barrier to international trade. Non-tariff issues such as missing links in inter-country transportation and variation in domestic regulations have a direct impact on trade in the Indo-Pacific. An inefficient port or shipping line can affect the price of traded products in the same way as high tariff does. Domestic regulations in the transportation sector also strongly affect the trade in goods and services. Indo-Pacific countries face many “common” challenges in the maritime transport sector. This article presents an overview of the seventh pillar of Indo-Pacific Oceans’ Initiative (IPOI), discusses the immediate challenges and outlines an action plan to scale up the IPOI activities in the short to medium run.

Journal of Asian Economic Integration

Vol. 3, No. 2, September 2021



- Economic Impacts of the US–China Trade War on the Asian Economy: An Applied Analysis of IDE-GSM by *Satoru Kumagai, Toshitaka Gokan, Kenmei Tsubota, Ikumo Isono, Kazunobu Hayakawa*
- The US–China Trade War: Impact on India and Other Asian Regions by *Rajesh Chadha, Sanjib Pohit, Devender Pratap*
- Two Crises Separated by a Decade: Political Economy of Trade Strategy and Reserves Accumulation in East Asia by *Biswajit Nag, Partha Ray*
- Climate Change and Trade Facilitation: Estimating Greenhouse Gas Emission Savings from Implementation of Cross-Border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific by *Yann Duval, Simon Hardy*
- What Governance Lesson Does Mekong Bear for Ganges–Brahmaputra–Meghna (GBM) Basin? by *Nilanjan Ghosh, Sayanangshu Modak*
- A Portrait of Global Value Chain Linkages of Indian Manufacturing by *Ketan Reddy, Subash Sasidharan*

AIC Commentary No. 19, July 2021

Role of Traditional Medicinal Systems in Enhancing India-ASEAN Partnership by Sunetra Ghatak

Traditional medicines offer ways to prevent and manage lifestyle diseases and over time have recognized as an alternative to the modern healthcare systems. Indian traditional medicinal systems have a very rich history of their effectiveness and are increasingly becoming popular across the world including ASEAN countries. This commentary tries to point out that India and ASEAN have ample scope in practising traditional medicines together as they have similar chronic disease burdens. Moreover, using the strength of Indian traditional medicines, a huge business can be created across the world for herbal medicines, medicinal plants, other traditional drugs, etc. Therefore, such healthcare cooperation on traditional medicinal systems can be beneficial for both India and ASEAN.

AIC Commentary No. 20, August 2021

Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative: Providing Institutional Framework to the Indo-Pacific Region by Rahul Mishra

Since its inception, the Indo-Pacific construct debates have revolved around the two most critical issues. With the first issue of geographical scope getting more or less settled, the second and equally important issue of creating enabling institutional frameworks is assuming the centre stage in Indo-Pacific debates. The Indo-Pacific Oceans' Initiative (IPOI) aims to provide a comprehensive institutional framework to the Indo-Pacific architecture. With countries such as Australia, France, Japan, and Vietnam have already voiced their support and/or joined the IPOI, it seems New Delhi's latest initiative is poised to lend greater credibility to the Indo-Pacific construct while establishing India as a responsible stakeholder and a 'rule-maker' rather than a 'rule-taker' in the region. Budding shoots of IPOI are promising and can bring home tangible gains provided sustained efforts are put in to ensure gains on all seven pillars of the IPOI.

AIC Commentary No. 21, September 2021

An Agenda for Strengthening Maritime Transport Cooperation in Indo-Pacific by Prabir De

Maritime trade and maritime security are essential components of the Indo-Pacific initiative. The Facilitation of maritime trade and transportation is found to be one of the key pillars of all Indo-Pacific visions introduced till date. While tariff is no longer the prime barrier to international trade, non-tariff issues such as missing links in inter-country transportation and variation in domestic regulations have a direct impact on trade in the Indo-Pacific. An inefficient port or shipping line can affect the price of traded products in the same way a high tariff does. On the other hand, domestic regulations in the transportation sector also strongly affect the trade in goods and services. This commentary makes an attempt to identify a set of recommendations in order to enhance maritime transport cooperation in the Indo-Pacific.

AIC Commentary No. 22, October 2021

Promoting Tourism between ASEAN and India in Post-COVID by Sampa Kundu

With one billion people vaccinated with at least one dose, India stands tall in overcoming the impact of Covid-19 pandemic on the tourism sector. The ASEAN region too has begun to open its tourism sector gradually and slowly. In the third week of October 2021, Thailand released a list of countries

eligible for travelling to Thailand without mandatory quarantine if they have double vaccine shots certificates and negative RT-PCR test reports. India is not mentioned in the list and that takes us to the question of existing and emerging challenges in interregional tourism between India and ASEAN. Indonesia has also welcomed in-bound foreign tourists subject to compliance to certain norms. As the world is now hopeful of leaving behind the pandemic days, ASEAN and India need to retrospect the trends in intra-regional tourism involving both the sides. In the given context, this commentary seeks to recommend few ways to improve tourism between ASEAN and India in the near future.

AIC Commentary No. 23, November 2021

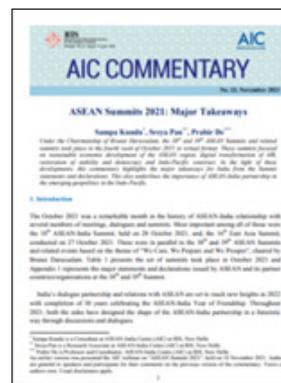
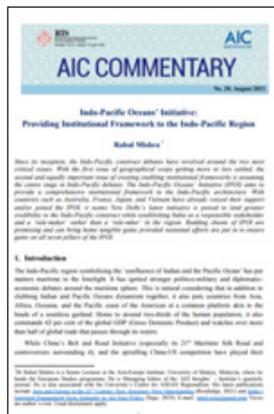
ASEAN Summits 2021: Major Takeaway by Sampa Kundu, Sreya Pan, Prabir De

Under the Chairmanship of Brunei Darussalam, the 38th and 39th ASEAN Summits and related summits took place in the fourth week of October 2021 in virtual format. These summits focused on sustainable economic development of the ASEAN region, digital transformation of 4IR, restoration of stability and democracy and Indo-Pacific construct. In the light of these developments, this commentary highlights the major takeaways for India from the Summit statements and declarations. This also underlines the importance of ASEAN-India partnership in the emerging geopolitics in the Indo-Pacific.

AIC Commentary No. 24, December 2021

Review of ASEAN-India FTA in Goods: Broad Contours and the Next Steps by Prabir De and Nida Rahman

ASEAN and India are going to celebrate 30 years of relations in 2022. Trade has remained an important pillar of ASEAN-India partnership over the years. The ASEAN-India FTA in Goods, implemented in January 2010, is entering into its 11th year, and the time is ripe to review and recast it in the light of the new world order pulled open by the pandemic. This commentary provides the broad contours around which the review of ASEAN-India FTA may focus.



Important Reading

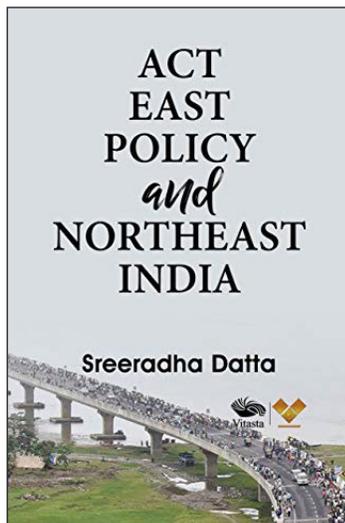


Assam as India's Gateway to ASEAN

Asian Development Bank

ISBN: 9789292627256, March 2021, Asian Development Bank

This publication builds on a vision for Assam, the largest state in northeast India, to follow an outward-looking growth strategy and become a \$75 billion economy by 2025. It outlines the potential and key features of Assam as a geostrategic location for multimodal connectivity, regional and cross-border trade, and economic corridors between India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as Bangladesh, Bhutan, and Nepal. The vision for Assam as India's gateway to ASEAN is also geared toward ensuring that both the state and the country remain committed toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

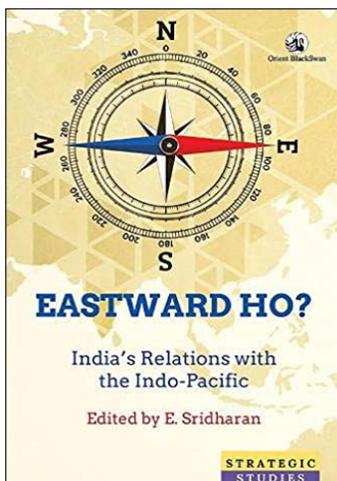


Act East Policy and Northeast India

Sreeradha Datta

ASIN: B091MTC44D, April 2021, Vitasta Publishing, New Delhi

India's Act East Policy hinges on development of the eight Northeast states with a view to achieving the foreign policy objective of enhancing ties with neighbouring countries. This book examines large infrastructure development across the region as it is seen pivotal for growth, employment and opening up of the local economy. It assesses the potential of cross-border trade with Myanmar and Bangladesh, some of which is a revival of traditional ties. It analyses how improving physical connectivity with the neighbours will establish direct linkages within the region and with the rest of India. It also gives an overview of government schemes and policies, investment fairs, tourism promotion efforts and the building of higher education institutions which will in due course transform the region. It is only when these come to fruition can the Northeast engage with the neighbours for prosperity in the region.



Eastward Ho? India's Relations with the Indo-Pacific (Strategic Studies) Hardcover – 15 June 2021

Edited by E. Sridharan

ISBN: 9789354420542, June 2021, Orient BlackSwan, New Delhi

Eastward Ho? analyses India's relationships with the countries lying to its east. It explores India's 'Look East Policy' launched in the early 1990s, later renamed 'Act East' in 2014. Against the backdrop of deepening intra-Asian economic integration, combined with security tensions and rivalries, both related to the economic and strategic rise of China, this volume asks: What are India's relationships like with countries to its east, and what are its challenges, possible

Important Reading

roles and options? Parts I and II study the political and economic consequences of the growing Asian integration; the evolving Asian 'security architecture', today's buzzword for institutions and processes; China's ever-changing perceptions of India; and India's emerging relations with Japan and Korea. Part III studies India's economic and strategic relations with Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Myanmar, and focuses on India and China's tussle for influence over the Himalayan states of Nepal and Bhutan. Part IV concludes the discussion by analysing India's evolving relations with Southeast Asia, namely Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

Social Transformations in India, Myanmar, and Thailand: Volume I: Social, Political and Ecological Perspective

Edited by Chosein Yamahata, Donald M. Seekins, Makiko Takeda

ISBN: 9789811596155, 2021, Palgrave Macmillan

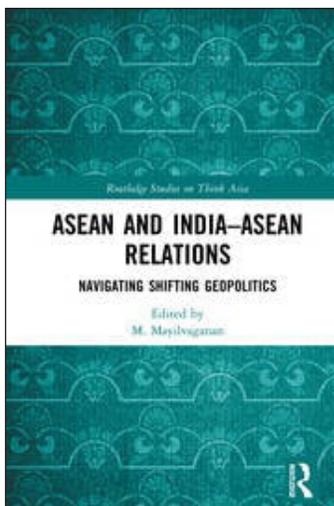
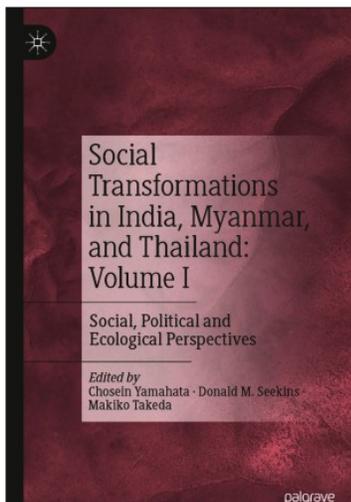
This book focuses on the different challenges and opportunities for social transformation in India, Myanmar and Thailand, by centering communities and individuals as the main drivers of change. In doing so, it includes discussions on a wide array of issues including women's empowerment and political participation, ethno-religious tensions, plurilingualism, education reform, community-based healthcare, climate change, disaster management, ecological systems, and vulnerability reduction.

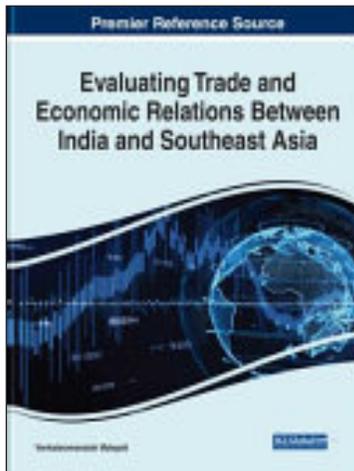
ASEAN and India-ASEAN Relations: Navigating Shifting Geopolitics

M. Mayilvaganan

eBook ISBN 9781003177173, November 2021, Routledge

This book analyses the nearly 30 years of India-ASEAN relations from a contemporary perspective, identifies the reasons for India's vibrant and significant relation with ASEAN and examines the cultural, economic, political and strategic linkages between India and ASEAN. The book projects the future of India-ASEAN relations in the face of the changing Indo-Pacific geopolitics and explores potential policies which could enhance the connection between India and Southeast Asian countries. Arguing that ASEAN is of primary importance to India, the book suggests that any successful outing in the Indo-Pacific would need a strong partnership with India. Chapters by experts in their fields present thematically specific analyses of political, defence, maritime and cultural aspects as well as the position of Northeast India in the India-ASEAN relations and assess the success and challenges of India's ties with ASEAN in the context of the Look East and the Act East Policies.



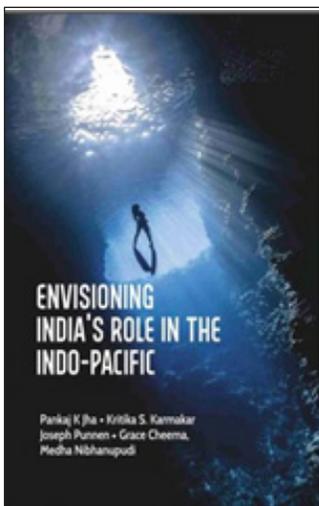


Evaluating Trade and Economic Relations between India and Southeast Asia

Anita Medhekar and Harpreet Kaur

ISBN13: 9781799857747, November 2021, IGI Global

Owing to a strong cultural and historical bond, India and Southeast Asia have progressed rapidly. Though there are political and ideological differences between these two entities, it may not hamper the strong bond as there are many common shared values among these nations. The history of these nations identifies that the cooperation between them in terms of trade and commerce is not upheld per the given potential of these nations. In the past, the Indian economy was linked with Southeast Asian countries under the "Look East" policy, which has been re-energized again under the present government. Now, the "Look East" policy is practically more vibrant than ever before with the motto "Act East." This policy facilitates these countries in emphasizing the importance of better regional connectivity for tourism as well as robust trade and commerce. It leads to a phenomenal growth in terms of imports and exports for these countries. The book sheds light on the trade and economic linkages between India and Southeast Asia and their impact on the nations in the past, present, and for the future. The chapters study whether the win-win strategy works for the strengthening of these countries in terms of both trade relations and political integrity, as well as in facing common enemies across international boundaries.



Envisioning India's Role in the Indo-Pacific

Pankaj K Jha, Kritika S Karmakar, Joseph Punnen, Grace Cheema, Medha Nibhanupudi

ISBN: 9789388691741, 2021, Shipra Publications

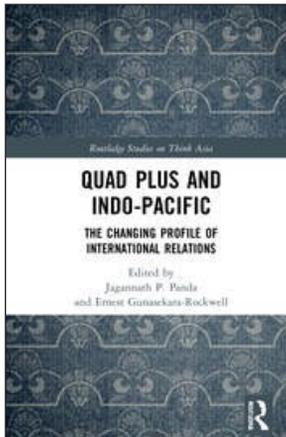
Ever since the launch of India's Look East policy in 1992, India has come a long way in terms of the changes directed towards its extended neighbourhood and also subscribed to the new concept of the Indo-Pacific. In recent years, the Indo-Pacific region has gained a great deal of international attention. This research study looks at the recent changes and strategies initiated by the Indian government towards the Indo-Pacific region, along with the various economic, multilateral and bilateral relations that could impact India's policies in the future. It also looks into the various regional forums India is associated with and how India shapes its policies according to their actions. This volume may be useful to all the stake holders having interest in the region.

Important Reading

Quad Plus and Indo-Pacific: The Changing Profile of International Relations

Edited by Jagannath P. Panda, Ernest Gunasekara-Rockwell

ISBN: 9781032048604, December 2021, Routledge

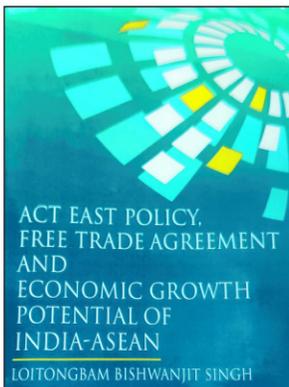


This book explores how the Quad Plus mechanism is set to reshape the global multilateral economic and security co-operations between Quad partner countries and the rest of the world. With the Quad partners – Australia, India, Japan and the United States – seeing deteriorating ties with China, the book provides a holistic understanding of the reasons why Quad Plus matters and what it means for the post-Covid Indo-Pacific and Asian order. It goes beyond the existing literature of the global post-Covid reality and examines how Quad Plus can grow and find synergy with national and multilateral Indo-Pacific initiatives. The chapters analyze the mechanism's uncharacteristic yet active approach of including countries like South Korea, Israel, Brazil, New Zealand and ASEAN/Vietnam for their successful handling of the pandemic crisis, thereby reshaping the new world's geopolitical vision. A unique study focused solely on the intricacies and the broader dialogue of the 'Quad Plus' narrative, the book caters to strategic audiences as well as academics researching International Relations, Politics, and Indo-Pacific and Asian Studies.

Act East Policy, Free Trade Agreement and Economic Growth Potential of India-ASEAN

Loitongbam Bishwajit Singh

ISBN: 9788183706100, 2022, Akansha Publishing House



This is a book on the system exploration of emerging economic opportunities between India and ASEAN and India's changing political and economic interactions with its Asian neighbours from the perspective of Northeast India, rather than that of New Delhi. Deepening India and ASEAN economic relationship would be a win-win situation in terms of economic and political perspectives. It would increase Asia's capacity to address the continent's challenges and have greater influence in world affairs. A strategic partnership with India would widen ASEAN's opportunity to meet its regional security and other challenges.

Research Publications (July- December 2021)

- De, Prabir and Sunetra Ghatak (2021) "Income Convergence across Asian Economies: An Empirical Exploration" *Journal of Asia-Pacific Business*, Volume 22, No. 3
- De, Prabir and Durairaj Kumarasami (2021) "COVID-19 and the Changing Profile of ASEAN-India Economic Relations", *IMI Konnect*, Vol. 10, No. 3
- De, Prabir (2021) "Regional Integration in Bay of Bengal Region in Post-COVID-19 Period", in Sreeradha Datta (ed.) *BIMSTEC: The Journey and the Way Ahead*, Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), New Delhi
- De, Prabir, Durairaj Kumarasamy and Sreya Pan (2021) "Two Decades of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation: Regional Cooperation Agenda for the Third Decade", in Prabir De (ed.) *Twenty Years of Mekong-Ganga Cooperation (MGC): Achievements and Way Forward*, Vij Books, New Delhi

Research Projects: Ongoing

Enhancing ASEAN-India Partnership in e-VBAB: Challenges, Opportunities and the Way Forward	This is a preliminary study to understand the telemedicine and tele-education scenario in the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) region and India's scope for cooperation in the same field. This study also proposes a few recommendations and an action plan for Government of India to consider in the context of 30 years of ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations in 2022 in the arena of telemedicine and tele-education.
Trade, Connectivity and Maritime in Indo-Pacific	In the 14th East Asia Summit (EAS) held in Bangkok on November 2019, Indian Prime Minister announced the Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiatives (IPOI) for promoting maritime cooperation in the wider Indo-Pacific region. The seven pillars of IPOI are (i) Maritime Ecology, (ii) Maritime Security, (iii) Maritime Resources, (iv) Capacity Building and Resource Sharing, (v) Disaster Risk Reduction and Management, (vi) Science, Technology and Academic Cooperation, and (viii) Trade, Connectivity and Maritime Transport. This study aims to identify an appropriate strategy to promote trade, connectivity and maritime cooperation in Indo-Pacific.
Assessing the Production Networks between ASEAN and India: Sectoral Analysis	Over the years India and ASEAN had engaged in creating production network within those industries on which India has manufacturing capacities and complementarities that match with the demand or supply capacity of ASEAN and vice versa. In establishing these production networks, it has encountered various challenges that include gaps in connectivity and trade restrictions. The study will explore the present scenario of ASEAN-India production network at the sectoral level. The study will also present the challenges and way forward.
Implications of ASEAN Economic Community 2025	The establishment of the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) in 2015 is a major milestone in the regional economic integration agenda in ASEAN. The AEC Blueprint 2025, adopted by the ASEAN Leaders, is aimed towards achieving the vision of having an AEC by 2025 that is highly integrated and cohesive; competitive, innovative and dynamic; with enhanced connectivity and sectoral cooperation; and a more resilient, inclusive, and people-oriented, people-centred community, integrated with the global economy. ASEAN member states aim to complete the AEC by 2025. The implementation of AEC carries economic and strategic implications for India. This study is aimed to analyse the economic implications of AEC for India with particular reference to regional connectivity.
Review of ASEAN-India FTA	ASEAN and India signed trade in goods in 2009 and it came into force in 2010 and the services trade and investment agreement concluded in 2014. During these years ASEAN-India trade has increased many folds and the bilateral trade reached US\$ 87 in 2019-20. However, it was expected to increase much high than where it has reached. In view of above, this study will evaluate the performance of ASEAN-India FTA.
Connectivity and Supply Chain Resilience	The recent Supply Chain Resilience Initiative (SCRI) by India, Japan and Australia has been initiated to build resilient supply chain to mitigate the risk across the participating nations. Building last mile connectivity and proper infrastructural facilities are necessary in order to creating this resilience. The study will identify the connectivity and infrastructure challenges to resilient supply chain and provide the way forward.
Public Health Cooperation between ASEAN and India	The world has witnessed an unprecedented health crisis due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This ongoing pandemic makes the world realise to invest more on health facilities in order to save precious human life. With the emerging demand of public health system, India and ASEAN have come together to build cooperation and strengthen the public health system in this region. The study will identify the opportunities and challenges of public health cooperation between ASEAN and India.

Forthcoming Events

- Seventh ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT), March 2022
- Twelfth Delhi Dialogue, April 2022
- Fifth ASEAN-India Blue Economy Workshop, May 2022
- Fourth ASEAN-Indian Cultural and Civilisational Links Conference, June/July 2022
- Second ASEAN-India Development Partnership Programme, August 2022
- First Conference of ASEAN-India Network of Museums (AINM), September 2022

About RIS

Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi based autonomous think-tank under the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, is an organisation that specialises in policy research on international economic issues and development cooperation. RIS is envisioned as a forum for fostering effective policy dialogue and capacity-building among developing countries on international economic issues. The focus of the work programme of RIS is to promote South-South Cooperation and assist developing countries in multilateral negotiations in various forums. RIS is engaged in the Track II process of several regional initiatives. RIS is providing analytical support to the Government of India in the negotiations for concluding comprehensive economic cooperation agreements with partner countries. Through its intensive network of policy think tanks, RIS seeks to strengthen policy coherence on international economic issues. For more information please visit www.ris.org.in

About AIC

Considering the work of the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (AIEPG), and its Report with recommendations for forging a closer partnership for peace, progress and shared prosperity, the Heads of the State/Government of ASEAN and India at the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit 2012, held at New Delhi on 19-20 December 2012, recommended the establishment of ASEAN-India Centre (AIC) using existing resources at New Delhi. AIC was formally inaugurated on 21 June 2013 at RIS. AIC serves as a resource centre for ASEAN Member States and India to fill the knowledge gaps that currently limit the opportunities for cooperation. The AIC is closely working with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), India to undertake and disseminate policy research and provide analytical policy recommendations. For more information please visit <http://www.aic.ris.org.in>



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