

## **India - Singapore Relations**

India-Singapore relations were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership during the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to Singapore in September 2024. With shared history, long tradition of friendship based on trust and mutual respect, and extensive cooperation across a wide range of areas, India-Singapore cooperation has deepened and diversified over the years.

### **Historical Connect**

2. Close ties between India and Singapore have a history rooted in strong commercial, cultural and people-to-people links across a millennium. The more modern connection is attributed to Sir Stamford Raffles who, in 1819, established a trading station in Singapore on the route of the Straits of Malacca which later became a crown colony and was governed from Kolkata till 1867. The colonial connection is reflected in institutions and practices, usage of English and presence of a large Indian community. India was one of the first countries to recognize Singapore in 1965.

### **High-Level Exchanges**

3. Prime Minister Modi has visited Singapore 5 times since he assumed office in 2014. Prime Minister paid bilateral visits to Singapore in November 2015 and May-June 2018. Prime Minister also visited Singapore in March 2015 for the funeral of Mr Lee Kuan Yew, 1<sup>st</sup> Prime Minister of Singapore and November 2018 for ASEAN-India Summit, East Asia Summit and RCEP Leaders' Meeting. Prime Minister Modi became the 1<sup>st</sup> Indian Prime Minister to deliver keynote address at the annual Shangri La Dialogue in June 2018 and first Head of Government to deliver the keynote address at the Singapore Fintech Festival in November 2018.

4. Prime Minister visited Singapore on 04-05 September 2024. Prime Minister had meetings with Prime Minister Wong, Senior Minister (and former Prime Minister) Lee and Emeritus Senior Minister (and former Prime Minister) Goh. Prime Minister called on President Tharman. Prime Minister also interacted with Singapore business leaders and visited AEM, a Singapore company in semiconductor sector. Prime Minister Wong accompanied Prime Minister for the visit to AEM. During this visit, bilateral relations were elevated to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership, MoUs on cooperation in the

areas of Semiconductor Ecosystem, Digital Technologies, Healthcare and Skill Development were exchanged and a Joint Statement was issued.

5. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam paid a State Visit to India from 14-18 January 2025. He was accompanied by Minister for Transport Mr Chee Hong Tat and Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Ms Sim Ann. Apart from meetings with President Murmu and Prime Minister Modi, several cabinet ministers also called on President Tharman. After Delhi, President Tharman visited Odisha, where several MoUs between Odisha government entities and Singaporean companies, in areas of fintech, skills, green energy and industrial parks were signed.

6. Prime Minister of Singapore Lee Hsien Loong paid a bilateral visit to India on 03-07 October 2016. Prime Minister Lee visited India on 25-26 January 2018 to participate in the Republic Day Celebrations and for the 2018 ASEAN India Commemorative Summit. Prime Minister Lee visited New Delhi on 8-10 September 2023 to attend G20 Leaders' Summit. On 22 November 2023, Prime Minister Lee participated in the virtual G20 Leaders' Summit hosted by Prime Minister Modi.

7. Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Lee had meetings on the sidelines of G20 Summits in Rome (30 October 2021) and Bali (16 November 2022). On 21 February 2023, the link between India's UPI and Singapore's PayNow was officially launched in the online presence of Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Lee. Prime Minister Wong joined Prime Minister Modi for the launch of the Declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Data for Governance (which was launched by India) at the G20 Summit in Brazil in November 2024.

8. External Affairs Minister (EAM) Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Singapore in November 2021, October 2023, March 2024, November 2024 and July 2025. During his visits, he had engagements with several Singaporean dignitaries, business people and Indian diaspora. Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan visited India in June 2022 (for Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting) and in March 2023 (for G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting). EAM and Singapore Foreign Minister had several meetings on the sidelines of multilateral events, latest being on 25 February 2025 in South Africa on the sidelines of G20 Foreign Ministers' Meeting.

### **India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR)**

9. The inaugural meeting of the ISMR took place on 17 September 2022 in New Delhi. Four Senior Singaporean Ministers traveled to India for this meeting - Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Lawrence Wong, Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan, Transport and Trade Relations Minister S. Iswaran and Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong. From the Indian side, the delegation for the ISMR included External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman and Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal. Their discussion focused on the emerging areas of cooperation such as digital connectivity, Fintech, green economy, green hydrogen, skill development and food productivity and provided an ambitious roadmap for further enhancement of India – Singapore Strategic Partnership. Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Trade and Industry Minister Gan Kim Yong also called on Prime Minister Modi.

10. The 2<sup>nd</sup> round of ISMR was held in Singapore on 26 August 2024. Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs, Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs, Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology visited Singapore for the same. From the Singapore side, Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry, Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. K Shanmugam, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law, Mrs Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Information and Second Minister for Home Affairs, Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry and Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance participated in the meeting. The Ministers reviewed the progress of India – Singapore Strategic Partnership, particularly under the pillars of Digitalization, Skills Development, Sustainability, Healthcare & Medicine, identified during the 1<sup>st</sup> meeting of ISMR. It was decided to add two new pillars, Advanced Manufacturing and Connectivity for further strengthening bilateral cooperation. During their visit, the Indian Ministers also called on H.E. Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, President of Singapore and H.E. Mr. Lawrence Wong, Prime Minister of Singapore.

11. The 3<sup>rd</sup> round of ISMR was held in New Delhi on 13 August 2025. The Indian delegation included Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of Finance & Corporate Affairs;

Dr. S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs; Shri Piyush Goyal, Minister of Commerce and Industry; and Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, and Electronics and Information Technology. From the Singapore side, Mr. Gan Kim Yong, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Trade and Industry; Mr. K. Shanmugam, Coordinating Minister for National Security and Minister for Home Affairs; Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Foreign Affairs; Ms. Josephine Teo, Minister for Digital Development and Information; Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower; and Mr. Jeffrey Siow, Acting Minister for Transport, participated in the meeting. The Ministers reviewed the progress of various bilateral cooperation initiatives under the six pillars of ISMR including Advanced Manufacturing, Connectivity, Digitalization, Healthcare & Medicine, Skills Development and Sustainability. They deliberated on ways to further deepen bilateral cooperation, particularly under these six pillars, and identified a number of specific initiatives to pursue. The report of the 3rd India-Singapore Business Roundtable was also presented to the Ministers, underlining the key role of the private sector in this endeavour. During the visit, the Ministers from Singapore called on Honourable Rashtrapatiji Smt. Droupadi Murmu. The Singapore side also visited Mumbai in connection with economic, commercial and investment engagements, including in the maritime sector.

### **Other engagements**

12. **Parliamentary exchanges:** From 24-26 April 2022, a 12 member Indian Parliamentary Delegation, led by Speaker (Lok Sabha) Om Birla, visited Singapore. Lok Sabha Speaker had meetings with the Speaker of the Parliament of Singapore Tan Chuan-Jin and Emeritus Senior Minister Goh Chok Tong. Singapore Parliament Speaker Seah Kian Peng visited India in October 2023 for P20 meeting. A delegation of PAP MPs, led by Senior Minister of State Janil Puthuchery visited India in November 2024. All-Party Parliamentary Delegation, led by Sh Sanjay Kumar Jha, visited Singapore on 27-28 May 2025. During their visit, they met Mr Edwin Tong, Minister for Law & 2nd Minister for Home Affairs, Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and Home Affairs, Senior Minister of State Mr Janil Puthuchery, Members of Parliament Mr Vikram Nair and Mr Saktiandi Supat. They also had engagements with think-tank scholars, media and Indian community.

13. **Ministerial visits from India:** Minister of State for External Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs V. Muraleedharan and Minister of State for External Affairs and Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh visited Singapore in February and May 2023 respectively. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery visited Singapore under the Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Distinguished Visitors Program (DVP) on 17-18 January 2024. He met Foreign Minister Balakrishnan and other senior officials from various government agencies. Minister of State for Electronics & IT Sh Jiten Prasada visited Singapore for participating in the Singapore International Cyber Week from 15-17 October 2024. During the visit, he had meeting with Mr Tak Kiat How, Senior Minister of State of Ministry of Digital Development and Innovation. Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan visited Singapore from 20-21 October 2024. Education Minister called on Prime Minister Wong and had meetings with Singapore's DPM, Foreign Minister and Education Minister. Education Minister also visited NUS and Hwa Chong Institute. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery met President Tharman during his visit to Singapore on 29 November 2024. Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways Sh Sarbananda Sonowal visited Singapore from 23-26 March 2025 for the Singapore Maritime Week 2025. During the visit, he had meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Manpower and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister for Trade Dr Tan See Leng and MoS for Transport Mr Murali Pillai. Former MoS of MEITY and MSDE, Sh Rajiv Chandrashekhkar visited Singapore from 27-29 May 2025, on invitation from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore under its S R Nathan Fellowship program. He had meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister in PMO and 2<sup>nd</sup> Minister for Finance Ms Indranee Rajah, Senior MoS for Digital Development & Innovation Mr Tak Kiat How and MoS for Culture, Community & Youth Mr Dinesh Vasu Das.

14. **Ministerial visits from Singapore:** Singapore was invited as a Guest Country under India's Presidency of G20 in 2023. 17 Singaporean Ministers participated in G20 meetings held during Indian Presidency. Former Senior Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam visited Delhi from 02-05 March 2023 to participate in the Raisina Dialogue. Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong visited Delhi from 10-13 March 2023 to launch the India- Singapore Hackathon (SIH) 2023. Minister Gan also spoke at the CII Partnership Summit. Deputy Prime Minister Lawrence Wong attended

the 2023 Singapore-India Hackathon Awards Ceremony along with Union Minister of Education on 16 July 2023 in Gujarat. On 11 January 2024, Minister for Home Affairs and Law Mr. K. Shanmugam visited Chennai at the invitation of the State Government of Tamil Nadu, to be the Chief Guest at the World Tamil Diaspora Day 2024. Singapore Minister for Transport Mr Chee Hong Tat visited India on 11-12 September 2024 for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Ministerial Conference on Civil Aviation, he had meetings with Minister of Civil Aviation and Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways during his visit to India. Minister for Defence Dr Ng Eng Hen visited India on 21-23 October 2024 for the 6<sup>th</sup> round of Defence Ministers' Dialogue. Minister for Home Affairs and Law Mr K Shanmugam and Minister for Manpower Dr Tan See Leng visited India on 07-09 November 2024 for DBS Bank's anniversary event.

15. **State level visits from India:** Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel led a delegation to Singapore from 30 November – 02 December 2023, to invite the Government of Singapore to the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit 2024. Rajasthan Minister of Industry & Commerce Col Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore visited Singapore from 07-10 October 2024 for inviting Singapore companies for Rising Rajasthan Investment Summit. During his visit, he had meetings with Mr Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade & Industry and Ms Sim Ann, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs. Odisha Chief Minister Shri Mohan Charan Majhi visited Singapore on 17-20 November 2024 to promote investments in Odisha and Utkarsha Utkal Make in Odisha Summit 2025. During his visit, he had meetings with DPM Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Transport Chee Hong Tat and Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Sim Ann. Chief Minister of Telangana Sh A Revanth Reddy visited Singapore from 17-19 January 2025 to promote investments in Telangana. He had meetings with Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and Minister for Sustainability and the Environment Ms Frace Fu. Chief Minister of Assam Sh Himanta Biswa Sarma visited Singapore from 10-13 February 2025 to promote Advantage Assam Summit and investments in Assam. During his visit, he called on President Tharman and had meetings with Deputy Prime Minister Mr Gan Kim Yong and Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Shri N. Chandrababu Naidu visited Singapore on 26-30 July 2025. He held meetings with President Mr. Tharman Shanmugaratnam, Senior Minister Mr. Lee Hsien Loong,

Minister for Home Affairs Mr. K. Shanmugam and Minister for Manpower and Minister-in-charge of Energy & Science & Technology, Ministry of Trade and Industry Dr. Tan See Leng.

16. **Senior official level visits:** Second Permanent Secretary Luke Goh visited India in August 2024 in preparation for ISMR and PM visit. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Trade & Industry Dr Beh Swan Gin visited India from 03-05 November 2024, 1<sup>st</sup> round of India-Singapore Semiconductor Ecosystem Partnership Dialogue was held in Delhi on 05 November 2024. Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways Sh T K Ramachandran visited Singapore from 17 to 20 February 2025 for the International Organization for Marine Aids to Navigation meeting. Secretary (East) Jaideep Mazumdar and Permanent Secretary (Development), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Luke Goh co-chaired 18<sup>th</sup> Foreign Office Consultations in Singapore on 07 March 2025. Permanent Secretary (Development), Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore Luke Goh visited India for meeting with Secretary (East) P Kumaran on 02 July 2025. Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Trade & Industry Dr Beh Swan Gin visited India for the 3<sup>rd</sup> ISMR, he co-chaired the 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-Singapore Joint Working Group on Trade & Investment (JWGTI), with Shri Rajesh Agrawal, Special Secretary, Department of Commerce in New Delhi on 14 August 2025.

### **Legal and Judicial Cooperation**

17. Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon visited India to deliver the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Lecture at the 1<sup>st</sup> Supreme Court of India Day Celebrations on the theme "Judiciary's Role in a Changing World" on 28 January 2023. Hon'ble Chief Justice of India D.Y. Chandrachud was on an official visit to Singapore from 07-10 September 2023 for the inaugural Singapore-India Judicial Roundtable. Chief Justice of Singapore Sundaresh Menon visited Delhi in April 2024 for India – Singapore Conference on Technology, in August 2024 for 2<sup>nd</sup> India-Singapore Judicial Roundtable and to Mumbai in September 2024 and Chennai in October 2024. On 14 March 2024, India and Singapore signed an MoU on cooperation in the sphere of Law & Dispute Resolution. The MoU was signed in a virtual meeting of the Minister of State for Law and Justice (I/C) Arjun Ram Meghwal, and the Minister for Culture, Community and Youth and Second Minister for Law of Singapore Edwin Tong. Then Chief Justice of



India Sh Sanjiv Khanna visited Singapore and had a meeting with Chief Justice of Singapore Mr Sundaresh Menon in April 2025.

### **Trade and economic cooperation**

18. Singapore is India's largest trade partner in ASEAN. It is the leading source of FDI, among the largest sources of External Commercial Borrowings and Foreign Portfolio Investment.

19. **Trade:** Bilateral trade expanded after the conclusion of CECA from USD 6.7 billion in FY 2004-05 to USD 34.3 billion in 2024-25. Singapore is India's 6th largest trade partner (FY 2024-25) with a share of around 2.96 % of India's overall trade. Our imports from Singapore in FY 2024-25 were USD 21.29 billion (YoY growth of 0.43%), exports to Singapore totaled USD 12.98 billion (YoY decline of 9.98 %) with trade deficit of USD 8.31 billion.

20. **Investments:** In FY 2024-25 Singapore was the largest source of FDI into India, with FDI flows of USD 14.94 billion. The cumulative FDI inflows from Singapore to India stood at USD 174.88 billion (April 2000– March 2025) which is 24 % of total FDI inflows in India. Top sectors attracting FDI Equity inflows from Singapore are: Services Sector, Computer Software & Hardware, Trading, Telecommunications and Drugs & Pharmaceuticals.

21. About 9000 Indian companies are registered in Singapore. 6 PSUs, 10 banks, CII, FICCI have their offices in Singapore. During the Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in September 2024, it was announced that Invest India will open an office in Singapore to facilitate investments from Singapore. CIM Sh Piyush Goyal inaugurated Invest India office in Singapore on 22 September 2024. More than 440 companies from Singapore are registered in India, 2 Singapore banks (Development Bank of Singapore and United Overseas Bank), Enterprise Singapore (ES), Economic Development Board (EDB) and Singapore Tourism Board have their offices in India.

22. **Skill Development:** There is active collaboration between India and Singapore to establish skill development centers in various sectors. Skill center projects with public and private support have been completed at 6 places (Himachal Pradesh, Delhi, Rajasthan (Udaipur), Assam (Guwahati), Odisha (Bhubaneswar) and Telangana (Hyderabad)) and 2 projects (Madhya Pradesh (Bhopal) and Gujarat (Gandhinagar)) are



ongoing. During the Prime Minister's visit in September 2024, both sides exchanged MoU on Cooperation in Education and Skill Development.

23. **Fintech:** Commercial and technical arrangements have also been worked out for the acceptance of RuPay card in Singapore. UPI-Paynow Linkage is another landmark development in the area of cross-border Fintech. Singapore is the first nation with which India has begun this cross-border Person-to-Person (P2P) payment facility. Other initiatives include ONDC - Proxtera Connectivity (making Proxtera first international buyer app connected to ONDC), GIFT Connect (collaboration between the National Stock Exchange of India (NSE) and the Singapore Exchange (SGX) to create a unified liquidity pool for NIFTY products in GIFT City), Trade Trust (initiative to enable interoperable electronic Bills of Lading (eBLs) for cross-border trade finance transactions).

### **Defence Cooperation**

24. Defence cooperation between India and Singapore is pursued under the aegis of Defence Cooperation Agreement of 2003, which was renewed under the Enhanced Agreement for Defence Cooperation in 2015. Both sides have signed several domain specific agreements, White-shipping Information Exchange, Air Force Joint Training, Defence Industry Working Group, Navy Cooperation, Mutual Coordination, Logistics & Services Support, Submarine Rescue Support & Cooperation etc.

25. India and Singapore have several structured defence interactions, spanning from political leadership down to staff levels of all three-armed forces, D/o Defence Production and DRDO. Defence Minister of Singapore Dr Ng Eng Hen visited India on 21-23 October 2024 for the 6<sup>th</sup> round of Defence Ministers' Dialogue. 15<sup>th</sup> round of Defence Policy Dialogue (Secretary level) was held in November 2023 in New Delhi. Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan visited Singapore for the Shangri-La Dialogue in June 2025, he called on Minister for Defence Chan Chun Sing.

26. There are bilateral exercises for all three services (Army – Exercise Agni Warrior, Navy – Exercise SIMBEX and Air Force – Joint Military Training). 32<sup>st</sup> edition of SIMBEX was held in Singapore in July-August 2025. 4<sup>th</sup> edition of the India–Singapore Joint Military Exercise, Exercise Bold Kurukshetra was held in India in August 2025. 13<sup>th</sup> edition of Ex Agni Warrior was held in India from 05 October to 11 December 2024. 12<sup>th</sup> edition of Joint Military Training, between Indian and Singaporean Air Forces was

held in India on 04 October to 16 December 2024. 4<sup>th</sup> edition of Singapore-India-Thailand Maritime Exercise (SITMEX) was hosted by India in November 2024. Singapore co-hosted the inaugural ASEAN – India Maritime Exercise in Singapore in 2023. Singapore participated in all editions of biennial Exercise Milan since its inception in 1995. In 2025, a total of ten Indian Navy ships have so far visited Singapore for operational turn around/ goodwill visits with the latest being Indian Naval ships Delhi, Satpura, Shakti and Kiltan, which made port call to Singapore between 16-19 July 2025. Indian Air Force Sarang Helicopter Display team participated in Singapore Air Show 2024 (held in February 2024). Military professionals from both countries undergo short and long term courses under several exchange programs.

### **S&T Cooperation**

27. ISRO has launched several Singaporean satellites, Singapore's first indigenous built micro-satellite in 2011, 2 more in 2014, 6 in 2015 and 9 in 2023. Singapore co-hosted inaugural ASEAN – India Women Scientists Conclave in April 2024. India and Singapore held an e-workshop in the area of digital health and medical technologies in July 2024 and in the area of green economy in September 2024. During the Prime Minister's visit to Singapore in September 2024, both sides decided to set up a Cyber Policy Dialogue, inaugural dialogue was held in Singapore in October 2024. During the Prime Minister's visit in September 2024, both sides exchanged MoU on Cooperation in Digital Technologies and decided to explore cooperation in the areas of critical and emerging technologies.

### **Cultural cooperation**

28. There are regular cultural exchanges in the spheres of performing arts, theatre, museum exchanges, art, languages, and youth exchanges between India and Singapore. Singapore's large Indian diaspora, through a number of cultural societies, actively promotes Indian art forms in Singapore. During the visit of Prime Minister Modi to Singapore in September 2024, it was announced that Thiruvalluvar Cultural Center will be set up in Singapore to promote bilateral cultural exchanges.

### **Multilateral cooperation**

29. Singapore has joined International Solar Alliance (In June 2023) and Global Bio-fuel Alliance (September 2023). Singapore supports India as a permanent member in a

reformed United National Security Council. Singapore has been supportive of India's engagements with ASEAN; Singapore was ASEAN Country Coordinator for India for period 2021-24, during which India-ASEAN relations were upgraded to Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. Singapore supported the Indian initiative of the Declaration on Digital Public Infrastructure, AI and Data for Governance (at the G20 Summit in Brazil in November 2024). India and Singapore are part of multilateral groups like IORA, NAM and Commonwealth.

### **Indian Community**

30. As per the Singapore Census of Population 2020, people of Indian origin constitute 9% of 4.04 million resident population of Singapore. Singapore also hosts 1.64 million foreigners, including Indian citizens. Indians in Singapore include students and people working in financial services, IT, construction and marine sectors. Singapore has the highest concentration of IIT and IIM alumni in any one city outside India. Tamil is one of the four official languages of Singapore. Hindi, Gujarati, Urdu, Bengali and Punjabi are also offered in schools. Mr. Piyush Gupta, CEO, DBS Bank Singapore was conferred with 2023 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award. Mr Atul Temurnikar, Chairman of Global Schools Foundation, Singapore was conferred with 2025 Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award.

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