

OVERVIEW

ASEAN-INDIA COMPREHENSIVE STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP

Introduction

1. ASEAN-India dialogue relations have grown rapidly from a sectoral dialogue partnership in 1992 to a full dialogue partnership in December 1995. The partnership was further elevated with the convening of the ASEAN-India Summit in 2002 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Since then, the ASEAN-India Summit has been held annually. These milestones, achieved within a decade, underscore the importance of the dialogue partnership to ASEAN and India and the significant progress made in the cooperation.

2. As ASEAN and India commemorated the 20th Anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2012, both sides elevated their ties to the Strategic Partnership. Efforts were subsequently intensified further to enhance cooperation across all three ASEAN Community pillars. In this regard, the ASEAN-India Eminent Persons Group (EPG) was established to take stock of ASEAN-India relations over the 20 years, explore new avenues for collaboration, and recommend measures to further deepen and broaden the partnership.

3. The year 2022 marked another significant milestone in ASEAN-India relations, with the establishment of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) and the celebration of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations. The milestone stands as a testament to three decades of productive and mutually beneficial partnership between ASEAN and India.

Political and Security Cooperation

4. Since India became a Dialogue Partner of ASEAN, the collaboration has expanded to encompass political and security dimensions. India actively participates in a series of consultative meetings with ASEAN under the ASEAN-India dialogue relations, including summit, ministerial and senior officials' meetings, and expert-level engagements. India also participates in ASEAN-led mechanisms such as the ASEAN Regional Forum, the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference (PMC) with India, the East Asia Summit, ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting Plus (ADMM-Plus) as well as sub-regional cooperation frameworks, namely Mekong-Ganga Cooperation and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation, which contribute to enhancing regional dialogue and accelerating regional integration. Under ADMM-Plus, India is currently co-chairing the Experts' Working Group on Counter-Terrorism with Malaysia for the 2024-2027 cycle.

5. Demonstrating its commitment and shared interest to ensuring peace, security, stability and development in Southeast Asia, India acceded to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia on 8 October 2003 during the 2nd ASEAN-India Summit in Bali, Indonesia. On the same occasion, ASEAN and India signed a *Joint Declaration for Cooperation in Combating International Terrorism*, manifesting concrete initiatives to step up cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

6. Following the entry into force of the ASEAN Charter and building on the strong foundation of the ASEAN-India Dialogue Relations, India has accredited its resident Ambassador to ASEAN based in Jakarta. Further reflecting the deepening of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership, India established a dedicated diplomatic Mission to ASEAN, which was inaugurated in April 2015 by H.E. Smt. Sushma Swaraj, the-then Minister of External Affairs of India.

7. At the 18th ASEAN-India Summit, the Leaders adopted the *ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Cooperation on the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo Pacific (AOIP) for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region*, aimed at promoting practical cooperation between ASEAN and India in the priority areas of the AOIP while strengthening the ASEAN-India partnership to further promote peace and prosperity in the region.

8. ASEAN and India marked the 20th anniversary of their dialogue relations in 2012 with a Commemorative Summit held in India on 20 December 2012. A series of commemorative activities were carried out to signify the expanding and deepening of the dialogue partnership. In 2017, ASEAN and India commemorated the 25th Anniversary of their dialogue relations through a range of celebratory events, including high-level meetings, business conclaves and expos, youth summit, artist camp, music festivals, and youth awards.

9. ASEAN and India convened ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit to mark the 25th Anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue relations on 25 January 2018 in New Delhi, India. At this Commemorative Summit, the Leaders adopted *Delhi Declaration* which charts out the future direction of ASEAN-India Strategic Partnership. The year 2022 marks another important milestone in ASEAN-India partnership in light of the celebration of the 30th anniversary of ASEAN-India relations, and the designation of the year as the ASEAN-India Friendship Year. Both sides organised numerous commemorative activities to mark the important occasion, including the Special ASEAN-India Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in New Delhi in June 2022, the visit of ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly delegation to India in August 2022, the ASEAN-India High Level Conference on Renewable Energy in February 2022, ASEAN-India Start-up Festival, the launch of ASEAN-India Network of Universities in August 2022,

and the ASEAN-India Artists Camp in October 2022. On 4 March 2022, the Indian Mission to ASEAN held a reception to kick off the commemorative activities.

10. The 19th ASEAN-India Summit to Commemorate the 30th Anniversary of ASEAN-India dialogue relations was held on 12 November 2022 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. At the Summit, the Leaders established an ASEAN-India CSP, which was officiated through a *Joint Statement on ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership*.

11. Pursuant to the establishment of ASEAN-India CSP, the ASEAN PMC with India on 13 July 2023 adopted the *Annex to the ASEAN-India Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2021-2025)* to broaden and deepen practical cooperation.

12. At the 20th ASEAN-India Summit, held on 7 September 2023 in Jakarta, Indonesia, the Leaders adopted the *ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Maritime Cooperation* as a means to explore and promote maritime cooperation, which is one of the AOIP priority areas, between ASEAN and India. ASEAN also welcomed India's support and active contribution to the ASEAN-Indo-Pacific Forum held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Summit on 5-6 September 2023, in Jakarta.

13. During the 21st ASEAN-India Summit, held on 10 October 2023 in Vientiane, Lao DPR, the Leaders adopted the *Joint Statement on Strengthening ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for Peace, Stability and Prosperity in the Region in the Context of the ASEAN Outlook of the Indo-Pacific with the Support of India's Act East Policy (AEP)*. The Statement reaffirmed India's support for ASEAN centrality and unity in the evolving regional architecture and its commitment to working closely through ASEAN-led mechanisms and fora under its Act East Policy.

14. On 20 June 2025, the Indian Mission to ASEAN convened a commemorative event at the ASEAN Headquarters/ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta to mark a decade of the establishment of the Mission. Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, graced the event as Chief Guest and delivered congratulatory remarks, underscoring the important role of the Indian Mission to ASEAN in facilitating the advancement of the ASEAN-India CSP.

15. At the ASEAN PMC with India on 10 July 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, ASEAN and India adopted the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2026-2030), and to serve as a strategic framework to further strengthen the CSP and contribute to the implementation of *ASEAN 2045: Our Shared Future*.

16. During the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit in 2025, the Leaders declared the year 2026 as ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation, with a number of activities proposed to be implemented under the initiative, including the 2nd ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise (AIME) which is tentatively scheduled for 26 September-2 October 2026 in Zambales, the Philippines, as well as ASEAN-India Defence Ministers' Informal Meeting. Following a proposal made at the ASEAN PMC with India in July 2025, ASEAN and India also agreed to develop a Work Plan to guide its implementation. India submitted a draft Work Plan to Celebrate 2026 as ASEAN-India Year of Maritime Cooperation in March 2026, which is currently being finalised.

Economic Cooperation

17. India remains an important trading partner of ASEAN, ranking as its eight-largest merchandise trade partner, with total two-way merchandise trade increased by 6.61%, from US\$106.98 billion in 2024 to US\$114.05 billion in 2025.¹ India also ranked as the ninth-largest external source of foreign direct investment (FDI), with FDI inflows from India to ASEAN increasing from US\$3.06 billion in 2024 to US\$7.08 billion in 2025.² Building on this positive trend, both sides have continued efforts to strengthen economic ties through various initiatives aimed at enhancing trade, investment, and broader economic cooperation.

18. The signing of the ASEAN-India Framework Agreement on Comprehensive Economic Cooperation at the 2nd ASEAN-India Summit in 2003 was the key milestone in the economic relations between ASEAN and India, which laid a foundation for the establishment of an ASEAN-India Free Trade Area. Subsequent milestones include the signing of ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement (AITIGA) in 2009, the signing of both ASEAN-India Trade in Services Agreement (AITISA) and ASEAN-India Investment Agreement (AIIA) in 2014. The AITIGA is aimed at promoting trade by progressively liberalising tariffs and included provisions that would establish predictable, consistent, and transparent trade practices to facilitate trade between the Parties. ASEAN and India are currently reviewing the AITIGA to make the AITIGA more user-friendly, simple, and trade facilitative for businesses. Meanwhile, the AITISA would progressively reduce and eliminate barriers to trade in services between India and ASEAN Member States, promoting greater cooperation, efficiency, and competitiveness in services sectors through provisions on market access, national treatment, transparency, domestic regulation and recognition. The AIIA would provide fair and equitable treatment for investors, non-discriminatory treatment in expropriation or nationalisation as well as fair compensation.

¹ ASEAN Statistics, IMTS data as of 1 July 2026.

² ASEAN Statistics, FDI data, preliminary as of 1 July 2026.

19. ASEAN has continued to strengthen private sector engagement with India through the ASEAN Business Advisory Council (ASEAN-BAC), including its regular collaboration with the ASEAN-India Business Council (AIBC) as a member of the ASEAN-BAC-led Joint Business Council (JBC) mechanism. The AIBC also regularly consults with the AEM and India on the sidelines of the AEM-India Consultations, with the most recent engagement taking place in September 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, thereby strengthening private sector participation and promoting closer ASEAN-India economic cooperation. Complementing these efforts, the ASEAN-India Bazaar, organised by the Indian Mission to ASEAN since 2022, has continued to facilitate business networking and commercial linkages between ASEAN and India, bringing together buyers and sellers from both sides, including micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs), and promoting trade and business partnerships.

20. The 14th ASEAN Transport Ministers (ATM) Meeting on 6 November 2008 in the Philippines, adopted the ASEAN-India Aviation Cooperation Framework, which aid the foundation for closer aviation cooperation between ASEAN and India. In 2012, India participated for the first time in the 21st ASEAN Land Transport Working Group (LTWG) Meeting, during which it presented initiatives for enhanced cooperation on Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership for Peace, Progress and Shared Prosperity (2010-2015), covering various sectors, including land and maritime transport, border management, customs, immigration, logistics and safety and Public Private Partnership (PPP). The India–Myanmar–Thailand Trilateral Highway Project and its planned extension to Lao PDR and Cambodia remains among the key ongoing initiatives to achieve greater ASEAN-India physical connectivity, aimed at connecting the ASEAN Highway Network (AHN) with the highway system in eastern India. The upgrading and extension of AHN to India-particularly the sections from Ha Noi, Viet Nam through northern Lao PDR and Myanmar to the border with India-form part of ASEAN's key strategies to enhance physical connectivity under Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2025.

21. On tourism, visitor arrivals from India to ASEAN rose to 6.95 million in 2025, up from 5.88 million in 2024.³ To further strengthen tourism collaboration, ASEAN and India signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Strengthening Tourism Cooperation during the 3rd Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers (M-ATM Plus India) held on 12 January 2012 in Manado, Indonesia. In 2019, ASEAN and India jointly designated the year as the ASEAN-India Tourism Cooperation Year to enhance tourism and cultural exchanges, with the aim of increasing two-way tourist visits and promoting people-to-people connectivity. The 9th Meeting of M-ATM Plus India in

³ ASEAN Statistics, preliminary Tourism Data as of 28 April 2026. Brunei Darussalam's data by country-of-origin cover air arrivals only, whereas Malaysia's data from 2024 refer to total visitor arrivals, including both tourists and excursionists. Data for Timor-Leste are available up to Q2 2025.

January 2022 reviewed ongoing cooperation and aligned the 2021–2022 Work Plan with ASEAN’s strategic frameworks, including the ASEAN Tourism Strategic Plan. This led to the endorsement of the ASEAN-India Tourism Work Plan 2023–2027 during the 10th Meeting of M-ATM Plus India in February 2023 in Yogyakarta, Indonesia. The Work Plan outlines 17 activities over five years, covering areas such as responsible and sustainable tourism, tourism education and training, and quality tourism standards. Furthermore, at the 21st ASEAN-India Summit in October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced 2025 as the ASEAN-India Year of Tourism, with USD 5 million allocated for related activities. This initiative was also acknowledged at the 12th Meeting of M-ATM in January 2025 in Johor, Malaysia. Key activities under ASEAN-India Year of Tourism 2025 include the ASEAN-India Cruise Dialogue, Tourism Professional Exchanges to India and Malaysia, and the ASEAN-India Marketing Campaign, featuring curated travel experiences across ASEAN destinations for Indian travellers. Recognising the vital contribution of the tourism sector to economic growth, the Leaders adopted the *ASEAN-India Joint Leaders’ Statement on Sustainable Tourism* during the 22nd ASEAN-India Summit in October 2025 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

22. Pursuant to the announcement by the Prime Minister of India during the 6th ASEAN-India Summit held in November 2007, the ASEAN-India Green Fund (AIGF) with an initial contribution of US\$ 5 million was established in 2010 to support cooperative pilot projects promoting technology cooperation, in climate change adaptation and mitigation. In addition, the ASEAN-India Science and Technology Development Fund (AISTDF) was created with an initial fund of USD 1 million to encourage collaborative Research and Development (R&D) and technology development between ASEAN and India. In 2007, India also contributed USD 1 million to the ASEAN Development Fund. In 2016, the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India increased its contribution to the AISTDF from USD 1 million to USD 5 million and in 2022, India further replenished the AISTDF in the amount of USD 5 million, as announced during the 19th ASEAN-India Summit in 2022.

23. In the area of science, technology, and innovation, ASEAN and India have continued to strengthen cooperation through a range of initiatives aimed at promoting research collaboration, capacity building, innovation, and human resource development. Key ongoing programmes include the ASEAN-India Collaborative Research and Development (AICRD) Programme, the ASEAN-India Research Training Fellowship (AIRTF), the ASEAN-India Women Scientists’ Conclave, and the ASEAN-India Scale Hub, which have contributed to fostering scientific exchanges and strengthening research networks between ASEAN and India. Recent activities and initiatives include the successful convening of the 2nd ASEAN-India Women Scientists’ Conclave in Cambodia on 6-10 July 2026 and the 3rd ASEAN-India Scale Hub in Bali,

Indonesia, on 15-17 July 2026, which further strengthened research collaboration, innovation ecosystems, and scientific exchanges between ASEAN and India.

24. ASEAN and India are currently implementing the project on “ASEAN-India Space Cooperation Programme”, a multi-year initiative originally implemented from 2013 to 2021 and subsequently extended until 2029. The Programme aims to establish tracking and data reception facilities, as well as data processing facilities, across ASEAN Member States. It also provides capacity-building support through training in the fields of space science and technology. Under the Programme, discussions are currently ongoing between Indonesia’s National Research and Innovation Agency (BRIN) and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) regarding cooperation at the Biak Ground Station. To date, a total of 82 scientists and researchers from AMS have been trained under the Programme, including 10 participants who completed long-term courses and 72 who attended short-term training programmes. Notably, 14 participants from AMS took part in the Course on Geospatial Applications in Disaster Risk Reduction, organised by the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (CSSTEAP), from 3 to 14 June 2024 in Dehradun, India.

25. On connectivity, the Leaders at the 10th ASEAN-India Summit in November 2012, welcomed the establishment of India’s Inter-Ministerial Group on Connectivity and encouraged regular exchanges between the Group and the ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) to explore concrete ways and means to support the Master Plan on ASEAN Connectivity (MPAC) 2010, particularly in areas of mutual interest. Two ACCC-India Meetings were held in Balikpapan, Indonesia, in June 2013 and in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar, in September 2014, respectively. From 2016 onwards, ASEAN’s engagement with India on connectivity continued on an annual basis through the ACCC Consultation with Dialogue Partners and Other External Partners on Connectivity following the adoption of the MPAC 2025 in September 2016 and this arrangement will continue under the successor to the MPAC 2025, the ASEAN Connectivity Strategic Plan (ACSP), which was adopted at the 46th ASEAN Summit in May 2025. Additionally, ASEAN Connectivity has been included as a recurring discussion in the annual ASEAN-India Joint Cooperation Committee Meetings since 2024. Existing and emerging funding mechanisms and initiatives to support sustainable infrastructure development in ASEAN includes India’s offer of a line of credit to ASEAN Member States for projects that support physical and digital connectivity.

26. In the area of agriculture and forestry, ASEAN and India have continued to strengthen cooperation in support of a more sustainable, resilient, and productive agri-food systems. Both sides have explored opportunities to deepen collaboration in

emerging priority areas, including regenerative agriculture, agricultural supply-chain traceability, innovation, and the application of appropriate technologies. Such cooperation has the potential to improve productivity, strengthen climate resilience, reduce environmental impacts, enhance transparency across agricultural value chains, and deliver tangible benefits to farmers and rural communities.

27. The ASEAN-India Fellowship for Higher Education in Agriculture and Allied Sciences, launched in 2024 by India, continues to contribute to human resource development, knowledge exchange and agricultural advancement across ASEAN. Looking ahead, greater engagement with the private sector, research institutions, and other relevant stakeholders will be essential to mobilise investment, scale up innovative solutions, and translate cooperation into practical outcomes that advance sustainable development in the region.

28. Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the ASEAN Centre for Energy (ACE) and India's Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) in November 2022, and between the ACE and India's Global Centre for Nuclear Energy Partnership (GCNEP) in December 2023, ASEAN and India have continued to advance cooperation in the energy sector, including on energy transition, renewable energy, and green hydrogen. Under the EAS framework, India regularly attends the annual EAS Energy Cooperation Task Force (ECTF) Meeting and the EAS Energy Ministers' Meeting (EMM), which serve as platforms to enhance energy cooperation under the EAS framework.

29. At the 21st ASEAN-India Summit held on 10 October 2024 in Vientiane, Lao PDR, Leaders adopted the *ASEAN-India Joint Statement on Advancing Digital Transformation* as a means to promote inclusivity, efficiency, and innovation in public service delivery. The Statement emphasises the role of digital connectivity in linking communities, industries, organisations and countries across geographies. The Leaders also noted the establishment of ASEAN-India Fund for Digital Future (AIFDF), which is aimed at advancing digital cooperation, especially on Digital Public Infrastructure. Both sides are currently exploring capacity building initiatives in Internet of Things, telecom security management, and role of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) in digital health. The ASEAN-India Digital Work Plan 2026, noted at the 6th ASEAN Digital Ministers' Meeting Plus India in January 2026, includes initiatives on ICT capacity-building, advanced telecommunications, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), the India-ASEAN Regulators' Conference, and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Information Technology.

30. At India's invitation, and on behalf of H.E. Dr. Kao Kim Hourn, Secretary-General of ASEAN, H.E. Satvinder Singh, Deputy Secretary-General of ASEAN for ASEAN

Economic Community, participated in the Artificial Intelligence (AI) Impact Summit held from 16 to 20 February 2026 in New Delhi, India. At the Summit, DSG Satvinder served as Guest of Honour at the session entitled “Preparing for the Future: AI-driven Strategies for Workforce and Economic Growth” on 20 February 2026 as well as held meetings with H.E. Periawsamy Kumaran, Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India and senior officials from the Ministry of Commerce and Industry of India. The Summit also saw ministerial-level participation from several ASEAN Member States.

Socio-Cultural Cooperation

31. Over the years, ASEAN-India socio-cultural cooperation has expanded to cover human resource development, people-to-people contacts, cultural exchanges, education, health, biodiversity, climate change and disaster management. All projects are supported through the AIF and AIGF.

32. ASEAN and India continue to promote people-to-people connectivity through regular programmes such as the Scholarship for Students from ASEAN Countries pursuing PhD, Master’s, and Postgraduate Diploma programmes at Nalanda University; ASEAN-India Students Exchange Programmes; Special Course for ASEAN Diplomats; Delhi Dialogue; International Conference on ASEAN-India Cultural and Civilizational Links Conference; ASEAN-India Media Exchange Programme; ASEAN-India Youth Summit; ASEAN-India Music Festival; and the ASEAN-India Network of Think-Tanks (AINTT). Recent initiatives include the ASEAN-India Music Festival in November 2024 in New Delhi, the 8th Roundtable of AINTT in November 2024 in Singapore, the 5th ASEAN-India Youth Summit in August 2025 in Goa, India, and the 14th Special Course for Diplomats from ASEAN in April 2026 in India. India has also extended the Scholarship for Students from ASEAN Countries pursuing PhD, Master’s, and Postgraduate Diploma programmes at Nalanda University for the 2026 and 2027 academic years. In addition, the Centre for Southeast Asian Studies at Nalanda University was inaugurated on 31 March 2026, further strengthening academic cooperation and people-to-people connectivity between ASEAN and India.

33. Under health cooperation, the Conference on Traditional Medicine between India and ASEAN was held in July 2023 in New Delhi under the theme “Role of Traditional Medicine in India and ASEAN Member States in Mitigation of COVID-19 Pandemic”. ASEAN and India have also successfully conducted the Workshop on National Cancer Grid Visham Global Cancer Project in August 2023 via webinar, providing a platform for sharing information and best practices in COVID-19 mitigation and treatment. India’s ongoing initiative on “Inviting Representatives from ASEAN Member States to Annual National Cancer Grid Meeting (5 Years)” continues to

facilitate participation of ASEAN health focal points in the annual meetings of the National Cancer Grid in India.

34. The ASEAN Agreement on Disaster Management and Emergency Response (AADMER) Work Programme 2026-2030 was endorsed by the ASEAN Ministerial on Disaster Management via ad-referendum on 22 September 2025. It was formally launched at the sidelines of the 13th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on Disaster Management (AMMDM), and the 14th Conference of the Parties (COP) to AADMER on 15 October 2025. ASEAN and India have continued to strengthen cooperation in disaster management and emergency response through the implementation of the Memorandum of Intent (MoI) between the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre) and India's National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), signed on 24 October 2024 in Brunei Darussalam, which focuses on enhancing coordination in disaster response and relief operations during large-scale disasters; promoting collaboration in advanced information technology, remote sensing, and early warning systems; facilitating the exchange of information and best practices; and supporting contributions to the ASEAN Disaster Emergency Logistics System for ASEAN (DELSA) stockpile of relief items. To advance the implementation of the MoI, the AHA Centre conducted a working visit to India in December 2025, during which it held consultations with the NDMA and met with officials from India's Ministry of Home Affairs, the India Meteorological Department, and the National Disaster Response Force of India.

35. To support the ASEAN Community-building efforts, India has funded the development and publication of *The ASEAN Magazine* through Phases 1, 2, 3, and 4 under the AIF. Since its launch in May 2020, a total of 52 issues have been published, serving as a platform to raise awareness of ASEAN's priorities, initiatives, and achievements among audiences in the region and beyond. The magazine has reached strong audiences through print and digital channels, with copies available in 24 libraries and community centres across the region and about 4 million views on its microsite and social media platforms since early 2025. Through its thematic and general sections, the Magazine has highlighted a wide range of issues, including social protection, health system strengthening, climate change, disaster resilience, poverty eradication, youth entrepreneurship, and ASEAN connectivity, among others.

Cross Sectoral Cooperation

36. India has actively participated in ASEAN connectivity-related meetings and events, including the annual ASEAN Connectivity Coordinating Committee (ACCC) Consultations with Dialogue Partners (DPs) and Other External Partners (OEPs) on Connectivity as well as the ASEAN Connectivity Symposium,

37. India actively contributes to the implementation of the Initiative for ASEAN Integration (IAI) Work Plans through various programmes, including Scholarship for Students from Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, and Viet Nam (CLMV) Countries for Two-Year Masters Programme at Nalanda University; Entrepreneurship Development Centres; Centres for the English Language Training in CLMV countries; ASEAN-India Network Universities; as well as Master Scholarship and Doctoral Fellowship in India for students from ASEAN Member States. India has also been participating regularly in the annual Consultation Meeting of the IAI Task Force-ASEAN Partners, including the 15th Consultation Meeting held on 11 August 2025 at the ASEAN Secretariat/ASEAN Headquarters, and continues to receive regular updates on IAI projects.

38. Under the IAI Work Plan III (2016-2020), India supported six projects, valued at approximately USD 7.18 million. Of these, the project “Creation of a Sustainable Information Technology (IT) Infrastructure for Advanced IT Training Using Conventional, Virtual Classroom and E-Learning Technologies in CLMV Countries” remains ongoing, and is expected to complete in 2027, with the aim of advancing digital skills and human resource development in the CLMV countries. India also supported another project under Work Plan III on science and technology capacity-building between Mandalay Technological University and Ho Chi Minh City University of Technology, which was completed on 31 January 2026.

39. India contributed to the development of the IAI Work Plan V (2026-2030) through its virtual participation in the 2nd Regional Workshop and Stakeholders’ Forum, held on 25 September 2025, and the recent 2nd Stakeholders’ Forum on 10 April 2026. The IAI Work Plan V, adopted at the 47th ASEAN Summit in October 2025, comprises of six Strategic Areas, namely (i) Food and Agriculture; (ii) Micro Enterprises and the Informal Sector; (iii) Education and Skills; (iv) Public Health; (v) Local Community Empowerment and Resilience; and (vi) Inclusive Growth and Sustainable Economic Development - comprising 16 Objectives and 45 Strategic Measures, with three cross-cutting mechanisms (building capable civil services; expanding access to finance; and leveraging multi-stakeholder partnerships).

40. ASEAN and India continue to explore or enhance cooperation in a wide range of areas, including maritime affairs; defence; trade and investment; cybersecurity; science and technology including space technology; transport; connectivity, including physical and people-to-people connectivity; digital economy; green economy; blue economy; fintech; MSMEs; startups; finance; energy, including renewable energy; tourism; agriculture and food security; ICT; natural resource management; public health; education; disaster management; sustainable development; social protection; smart cities; and technical and vocational education and training.
