

IN DIPLOMACY

www.indiplomacy.com

SINGAPORE



COVER STORY

**11TH MALAYSIA-SINGAPORE
LEADERS' RETREAT**

**STATE VISIT OF SINGAPORE PRESIDENT
THARMAN SHANMUGARATNAM TO INDIA**

EXCLUSIVE HIGHLIGHTS

**INTERVIEW WITH MALAYSIA'S HIGH COMMISSIONER
SG60 CHINGAY PARADE 2025
THAILAND AND SINGAPORE @60**



KAZAKHSTAN

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

**KAZAKHSTAN'S BOLD VISION FOR THE FUTURE
SINGAPORE COMPANIES IN KAZAKHSTAN**



**BUILDING
OUR SINGAPORE
TOGETHER.**

IN Diplomacy SG60 Coverage

As Singapore celebrates its 60th anniversary, IN Diplomacy is proud to present a special series of features highlighting celebrations and the nation's remarkable success stories.

*Through our online portal www.indiplomacy.com, print platforms, podcast series and **World Opportunities Forum 2025**, we will delve into the various aspects of Singapore's growth and development.*

To kick off our coverage, we bring you coverage on Chingay, Singapore's iconic cultural extravaganza.

Stay tuned for more exciting content as we celebrate Singapore's 60th birthday!

06



06

11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat

07

Malaysia-Singapore Ties: High Commission Announces Year-Long Celebrations to Mark 60th Anniversary

03

Welcoming New Diplomats

Singapore Leaders Congratulate Donald J. Trump on Inauguration as 47th U.S. President

04

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's Chinese New Year Message: Embracing Wisdom, Unity, and Hope for the Future

05

Chingay 2025: A Joyous Celebration of Singapore's Multicultural Spirit

05



Contents

Publisher
Sun Media Pte Ltd

Editor-in-Chief
Nomita Dhar

Editorial
Lovelyn Palec
Padhiyar Jeet Pratapray

Advertising & Research
Lovelyn Palec
Clara Paska Agata
Andi R. Fauzi
Alma Amarthatia Azzahra

Design & Layout
Padhiyar Jeet Pratapray

Photos
Singapore Ministry of Culture and Information | Ministry of Foreign Affairs | Prime Minister's Office Singapore | Ministry of Digital Development and Information of Singapore | High Commission of India in Singapore | Michael Ozaki

MCI (P) 060/06/2023

Contact
SUN MEDIA PTE LTD
20 Kramat Lane,
#01-02 United House,
Singapore 228773.
Tel: (65) 6735 2972

Email
edit@sunmediaonline.com
business@sunmediaonline.com

Website
www.indiplomacy.com
www.sunmediaonline.com

Advertising enquiries:
Tel: (65) 6735 2972

Printed by
Print & Print Pte Ltd

© Copyright 2025 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. The opinions, pronouncements or views expressed or implied in this publication are those of contributors or authors. They do not necessarily reflect the official stance of any other organisation or authorities. While every effort has been made to ensure accuracy of all information contained, the publisher cannot be held liable for loss incurred in any way whatsoever by a company or a person relying on this information.

10



17

Thailand and Singapore @60:
A Celebration of Friendship and
Future Opportunities

18

Thailand Embassy National Day
Celebrations

SMF Manufacturing Day
Summit 2025

19

India Celebrates
76th Republic Day

Saudi-Singapore
Water Forum 2025

18



09

State Visit of Singapore
President Tharman
Shanmugaratnam to India

10

President Tharman Visits India
to Mark 60th Anniversary of
Bilateral Ties

11

High Commissioner Dr. Shilpak
Ambule Reflects on President
Tharman's Visit to India

13

KAZAKHSTAN SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

14

Accelerating Growth:
Kazakhstan President's
Singapore Visit Fosters Ties

16

Born Bold' Campaign
Showcases Investment
Potential

15

Kazakhstan's Bold Vision
for the Future Bodes Well for
Kazakhstan-Singapore
Relations

Singaporean Companies in
Kazakhstan





For IN Diplomacy, this is an especially exciting year as we cover Singapore's engagements with the world, particularly with the 13 countries that celebrate 60 years of bilateral ties with Singapore. We look forward to bringing you coverage of the engagements and celebrations that will take place throughout this special year.

Year of Celebrations!

IN Diplomacy extends warm wishes to all our readers for a Happy Chinese New Year! May the Year of the Snake bring prosperity, resilience, and peace throughout the world.

In this issue, we bring you a special message from Prime Minister Lawrence Wong on page 4. This year is particularly significant for Singapore as our Little Red Dot celebrates 60 years of success and prosperity. Singapore's relationship with the global community has been built on active engagement in international trade, strong economic ties with diverse partners, a commitment to multilateralism, and a focus on regional stability. It has been our privilege to report on Singapore's bilateral and multilateral engagements worldwide.

For IN Diplomacy, this is an especially exciting year as we cover Singapore's engagements with the world, particularly with the 13 countries that celebrate 60 years of bilateral ties with Singapore. We congratulate Australia, Cambodia, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, India, Italy, Malaysia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Thailand, and the United Kingdom. We look forward to bringing you coverage of the engagements and celebrations that will take place throughout this special year.

On page 5, we feature a story on the Chingay Parade 2025. We also bring you a report on Singapore's closest neighbour, Malaysia, and this year's 11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat. We present an exclusive interview with H.E. Dato' Dr. Azfar bin Mohamad Mustafar, Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore. In our cover story, we highlight President Tharman's visit to India and feature comments from High Commissioner Dr. Shilpak Ambule.

Singaporean companies continue to seek opportunities globally, and Central Asia has emerged as a key area of interest, we include a special supplement on Kazakhstan.

This year, in addition to our daily coverage on our portal, www.indiplomacy.com, we are excited to introduce regular IN Diplomacy podcasts.

Stay tuned, and happy reading!

Welcoming New Diplomats



*The Ambassador of
the Hellenic Republic
H.E. Christodoulos Margaritis*



*The Ambassador of
the Republic of Panama
H.E. Sebastian Breton Pérez*



*The Ambassador of
the Socialist Republic of Vietnam
H.E. Tran Phuoc Anh*

Singapore Leaders Congratulate Donald J. Trump on Inauguration as 47th U.S. President

Singapore's President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister Lawrence Wong extend congratulations to U.S. President Donald J. Trump on his inauguration.

Singapore's President Tharman Shanmugaratnam and Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong have sent congratulatory letters to Donald J. Trump on his inauguration as the 47th President of the United States.

In their letters, both leaders acknowledged the longstanding and strong bilateral ties between Singapore and the U.S., emphasising economic and defence cooperation.

President Tharman praised the United States for its resilience and innovation and highlighted the

deep friendship between the two nations. He noted key achievements in bilateral relations during Trump's previous term and expressed Singapore's readiness to build upon this foundation. He also invited President Trump to visit Singapore again.

Prime Minister Wong reaffirmed Singapore's commitment to working with the U.S. on global stability, security, and economic growth. He highlighted the strong defense ties under the 2005 Strategic Framework Agreement and the economic benefits brought by the U.S.-Singapore Free Trade Agreement. Wong also

recalled Trump's last visit to Singapore in 2018 and welcomed him to return.

Both leaders expressed confidence that the U.S., under Trump's leadership, would continue to play a key role in global affairs and strengthen its partnership with Singapore.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's Chinese New Year Message: Embracing Wisdom, Unity, and Hope for the Future

Excerpts from Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's message on Chinese New Year. Reflecting on Singapore's progress, the Prime Minister celebrates the importance of family, and calls for continued unity in the Year of the Snake.

The Year of the Dragon ended on a high note. The economy performed strongly. Inflation subsided. Unemployment remained low. Many Singaporeans enjoyed higher wage increases.

We usher in the Year of the Snake with anticipation and hope for our future. In the Chinese zodiac, the Snake represents wisdom and adaptability. These are qualities we will need to navigate uncertainties and challenges, especially in our external environment.

Chinese New Year is a time of family reunion and bonding. It is a season for families to cherish the bonds that unite us, and to appreciate the strength and support our loved ones provide.

Families are the bedrock of our society. They nurture our values, provide emotional support, and inspire us to dream big. In today's fast paced and competitive world, balancing work and family life has become harder. Yet families remain at the heart of what matters most to us. I am encouraged that many Singaporeans continue to prioritise marriage, parenthood and family.

The Government is committed to supporting families at every stage of life. For young couples, we are ramping up the supply of BTO flats, and making public housing more affordable. We are enhancing leave arrangements, including through a new Shared Parental Leave scheme. We are also investing significantly in schools, especially pre-schools, so that every child, regardless of background, gets a good start in life.

For our seniors, we are providing more support so that they can enjoy their golden years with peace of mind, and age with dignity and purpose. Programmes like Healthier SG and Age Well SG will help our



seniors to stay active and healthy, while remaining connected to their loved ones and community.

Caregivers are the unsung heroes in many families. Many Singaporeans juggle multiple caregiving responsibilities, looking after ageing parents, young children, or family members with special needs. We deeply appreciate their contributions. The Government will find ways to better support caregivers, recognising their vital role in strengthening family bonds.

As we celebrate Chinese New Year, let us also remember our fellow Singaporeans going through difficult times. The Government will do more to help vulnerable families, uplift them, and provide better opportunities for their children.

But building an inclusive society requires all of us to do our part. Every act of kindness, no matter how small, brings us closer together. Each one of us can make a difference – by donating to charitable causes, volunteering to help those in need, or leading social initiatives.

This festive season is also an opportunity to celebrate the diversity of our Singapore family. We may have different views on issues that matter

deeply to us. But we cannot let our differences pull us apart. We should make an extra effort to engage and reach out to fellow Singaporeans of different races and religions. Our diversity is a source of strength, and we must continually seek ways to deepen our mutual understanding and expand our common space. In a world that is increasingly divided and polarised, our unity is a precious asset that we must continue to protect and nurture.

Unfortunately, the world is also becoming more dangerous. Terrorist groups have used the conflict in the Middle East to further their agenda and call for attacks. There has been a spate of terror incidents across various countries. Earlier this month, we announced the detention of three self-radicalised Singaporeans under the Internal Security Act. We will remain vigilant against any security threats. But we must also be mentally prepared for the possibility that an attack can occur here. If that were to happen, we must be able to stand together as one united people, resolute and undivided. Such challenges should not weaken the fabric of our society, but instead strengthen our resolve to protect our harmony and way of life.

This Chinese New Year is special as it coincides with SG60. 60 years marks a full cycle of life in Chinese culture. It is therefore timely to reflect on how far we have come, honour the contributions and sacrifices of our pioneers, and build on their legacy to chart our next steps forward.

As we step into our next life cycle, let us do so with courage, determination and resolve. Together as one Singapore family, we can keep our nation a beacon of safety, security and stability, amidst a troubled and volatile world.



Chingay 2025: A Joyous Celebration of Singapore's Multicultural Spirit



As Singapore embarked on its SG60 celebrations, the Chingay Parade 2025 proved to be a dazzling showcase of the nation's multicultural vibrancy and collective resilience.

Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, along with key government officials, graced the event and delivered his New Year greetings, setting the stage for an unforgettable celebration. The event was also attended by members of the Diplomatic Corps.

Under the theme 'JOY', that year's parade became an exuberant expression of Singapore's shared experiences and cultural heritage, bringing together over 4,000 performers from 150 organisations. International participation included the Mexican Association in Singapore, the Japanese Association in Singapore and the Liaison Committee of the Vietnamese Community in Singapore (VNAS). Foreign groups included, China - Jin Pu Yingge Dance Youth Troupe, Cambodia - Union of Youth

Federations of Cambodia (UYFC, Indonesia - Jember Fashion Carnival, Kazakhstan - Shabyt, Malaysia - Leng Suah Chee Diabolo Team and South Korea - Eonnam Traditional Art Troupe

One of the highlights was the SG60 Chingay Lion Float, which symbolized the journey of Singapore from its past into the future. Another significant moment was the announcement of Singapore and Malaysia's joint nomination of Chingay for the UNESCO Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage, marking six decades of close bilateral ties.

As part of SG60's broader vision to Connect, Care, and Contribute, Chingay encapsulated the very essence of these ideals. The parade wasn't just about revelry; it was an opportunity for Singaporeans to come together, reaffirm shared values, and contribute to a more cohesive society. The scale of participation—from performers to volunteers—demonstrated the strength of the

community and the collective commitment to making Singapore a more vibrant and inclusive home.

SG60 served as a timely reminder of how far the nation had come and how it must continue to forge ahead together. As Singaporeans celebrated their multicultural roots and resilient spirit through events like Chingay, they also laid the foundation for a future built on harmony, openness, and shared joy.

Chingay 2025 was a vibrant showcase of Singapore's rich cultural heritage and community spirit. As part of the nation's SG60 celebrations, it reaffirmed the commitment to inclusivity, resilience, and shared joy. With its wide-reaching accessibility and international participation, the parade continued to be a meaningful platform for fostering unity and celebrating Singapore's multicultural identity.

11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat

Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and Malaysian Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim held discussions on key bilateral projects and cooperation during the 11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat.



Singapore's Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong made an official visit to Malaysia on 6-7 January 2025 to participate in the 11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat, hosted by Malaysia's Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Dato' Seri Anwar Ibrahim. The annual retreat served as a key platform for both nations to discuss strategic directions, enhance economic and infrastructural connectivity, and address ongoing bilateral matters.

During the visit, Prime Minister Wong and Prime Minister Anwar reaffirmed their commitment to deepening cooperation across various sectors. They highlighted progress on mutually beneficial projects, including the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (SEZ) and the Rapid Transit System (RTS) Link, both of which aim to boost cross-border trade and ease congestion at the Malaysia-Singapore border.

Both leaders also acknowledged outstanding bilateral issues, such as water agreements, airspace management, and maritime boundary delimitation, and reiterated their commitment to addressing them through constructive dialogue and mutual respect.

On 6 January, Prime Minister Anwar hosted a formal dinner for Prime Minister Wong and his delegation. Singaporean ministers accompanying Wong also met with their Malaysian counterparts to discuss sectoral cooperation in trade, transport, security, and social development.



On 7 January, Prime Minister Wong attended an official welcome ceremony in Putrajaya before participating in a high-level delegation meeting with Prime Minister Anwar. The discussions culminated in the signing of several bilateral agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs), further strengthening economic, defense, and infrastructural ties between the two nations.

In addition to the official meetings, Prime Minister Wong had an audience with His Majesty Sultan Ibrahim, King of Malaysia. The meeting underscored the deep historical and cultural connections between Singapore and Malaysia.

Prime Minister Wong was accompanied by his wife, Mrs. Wong.

Several key cabinet members who joined the Prime Minister included: Deputy Prime Minister and

Minister for Trade and Industry Gan Kim Yong, Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr. Vivian Balakrishnan, Minister for Home Affairs and Minister for Law K. Shanmugam, Minister for Education Chan Chun Sing, Minister for Social and Family Development and Second Minister for Health Masagos Zulkifli, Minister for National Development Desmond Lee, Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and National Development Sim Ann. During Prime Minister Wong's absence, Deputy Prime Minister Heng Swee Keat served as Acting Prime Minister in Singapore.



JS-SEZ AGREEMENT: HISTORIC STEPS FOR MALAYSIA AND SINGAPORE

Malaysia and Singapore sealed the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone Agreement (JS-SEZ). This initiative reflects the close relationship between two countries that are united in achieving common economic goals.

JS-SEZ is a unique collaboration, combining Malaysia's advantages with vast land resources and a strong industrial foundation, as well as technology expertise and Singapore's financial strength. This merger makes JS-SEZ a competitive international investment destination.

Nine strategic areas in Johor, including Iskandar Puteri, Pasir Gudang, and Pengerang, will be the main focus. The zone offers great opportunities in sectors such as manufacturing, logistics, digital economy, and green energy. The goal of JS-SEZ is clear: attract high-value investments, create 20,000 high-skilled job opportunities, and realize 100 high-impact projects over a 10 year period. This is a proof of Malaysia and Singapore's commitment to provide a stable and progressive investment environment.

This cooperation not only strengthens the position of the two countries, but also improves the competitiveness of the Southeast Asian region on the global level. JS-SEZ is a symbol of unity, innovation, and a vision of a brighter future.

May this effort bring great benefits to the people of Johor and Malaysia, and be an inspiration to closer regional cooperation.

Malaysia-Singapore Ties: High Commission Announces Year-Long Celebrations to Mark 60th Anniversary

In an Interview with **IN Diplomacy** following the 11th Malaysia-Singapore Leaders' Retreat and the signing of Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone Agreement (JS-SEZ), the High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore has unveiled plans for a year-long celebration to mark the 60th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Malaysia and Singapore in 2025.



The High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore has announced a series of events to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Malaysia-Singapore diplomatic relations, reflecting on the enduring partnership and future cooperation between the two nations.

H.E. Dato' Dr. Azfar bin Mohamad Mustafar, Malaysia's High Commissioner to Singapore, expressed enthusiasm about this milestone year, stating, "2025 will be an interesting year and an important year for the Malaysian High Commission in Singapore."

The year began on a positive note with Singapore Prime Minister Lawrence Wong's visit to Malaysia for the annual Leaders' Retreat

with Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim. One of the key achievements of the retreat was the signing of the Johor-Singapore Special Economic Zone (SEZ) agreement, a strategic initiative aimed at enhancing economic collaboration between the two neighbors.

The High Commissioner noted that the framework for the SEZ is in place, and further progress now depends on private sector involvement to drive implementation.

To celebrate six decades of diplomatic ties, the High Commission of Malaysia in Singapore has partnered with Sun Media to organize a range of activities, including:

A seminar on Malaysia's economic activities, highlighting trade and investment opportunities.

A podcast series discussing Malaysia-Singapore relations, providing insights into historical milestones and future prospects.

The High Commissioner encouraged broad participation in these celebrations, stating, "I encourage all of you to work with us as we celebrate 2025."

The 60th anniversary of Malaysia-Singapore ties is an opportunity to reflect on the deep historical, economic, and cultural connections between the two nations. With joint initiatives such as the SEZ and continued diplomatic engagement, both countries remain committed to fostering a future of mutual prosperity and cooperation.



SingHealth

Defining Tomorrow's Medicine

Congratulations on President Tharman Shanmugaratnam's State Visit to the Republic of India Celebrating 60 years of partnership between India and Singapore.

Singapore Health Services (SingHealth) is a healthcare group in Singapore with four hospitals, five national specialty centres, three community hospitals, and a network of primary healthcare clinics. With over 40 medical specialties and a faculty of 3,700 doctors, the group offers integrated care in a multidisciplinary setting.

SingHealth institutions have earned a reputation for setting standards in healthcare for the region. Patients enjoy the benefit of treatments with solid diagnostic and treatment medical technology in a wide range of medical procedures.

SingHealth Hospitals



Singapore
General Hospital



Changi
General Hospital



Sengkang
General Hospital



KK Women's and
Children's Hospital

National Specialty Centres



National Cancer
Centre Singapore



National Dental
Centre Singapore



National Heart
Centre Singapore



National
Neuroscience Institute



Singapore National
Eye Centre

Partner in Academic Medicine



State Visit of Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam to India

01



02



03



04



1. *During his Visit, Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at the Guard of Honour ceremony*
2. *With the President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu*
3. *With Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi*
4. *With Foreign Minister, Dr. S. Jaishankar*

President Tharman Visits India to Mark 60th Anniversary of Bilateral Ties

President Droupadi Murmu welcomed Singapore's President Tharman Shanmugaratnam at Rashtrapati Bhavan, marking a historic milestone in India-Singapore relations.

Singapore President Tharman Shanmugaratnam was on a five-day State Visit from 14-18 January 2025, coinciding with the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two nations.

President Tharman, who was accompanied by his spouse Mrs. Jane Ittogi Shanmugaratnam and a high-level delegation, was received with a Ceremonial Guard of Honour and warmly welcomed by President Murmu and Prime Minister Narendra Modi. The delegation included Singapore's Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance Mr. Chee Hong Tat, Senior Minister of State Ms. Sim Ann, and Members of Parliament.

During their meeting, President Murmu highlighted the robust partnership between India and Singapore, emphasizing the shared history, mutual respect, and extensive cooperation across sectors like advanced manufacturing, connectivity, digitalization, and healthcare. President Murmu also commended the recent elevation of bilateral ties to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership and the establishment of a unique Ministerial Roundtable mechanism.

Both leaders jointly launched a commemorative logo marking the 60th anniversary of India-Singapore ties. The discussions further reinforced Singapore's role as a key pillar in India's Act East Policy and Indo-Pacific vision. President Murmu noted that



the growing partnership would bring immense benefits to both nations as India progresses towards becoming the world's third-largest economy.

President Tharman received a ceremonial welcome at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, visited the Raj Ghat to pay tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, and met President Murmu, who hosted him at a State Banquet. President Tharman and President Murmu reaffirmed the warm and longstanding friendship between Singapore and India. They took stock of the strong bilateral economic relations and growing people-to-people ties. The Presidents also welcomed cooperation in

forward-looking areas including semiconductors, industrial park development, as well as the green and digital economies.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi called on President Tharman. President Tharman and Prime Minister Modi welcomed the positive momentum in bilateral cooperation following the second India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable (ISMR) and Prime Minister Modi's Official Visit to Singapore in 2024. They also discussed new opportunities for cooperation in tandem with the upgrade of bilateral relations to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.



President Tharman received calls from Minister of Road Transport and Highways Nitin Gadkari, Minister of Health and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) President JP Nadda, Minister of Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman, Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar, Minister of Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal, Minister of Railways, Information and Broadcasting, Electronics and Information Technology Ashwini Vaishnaw, and Minister of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Jayant Chaudhary. They discussed ways to strengthen bilateral cooperation including in the key ISMR pillars, such as connectivity, health, skills development, industrial park, digitalization, and advanced manufacturing.

President Tharman's State Visit commenced celebrations of the diplomatic milestone, which also follows an eventful year in bilateral relations, highlighted by Prime Minister Modi's visit to Singapore in September 2024. The visit included



a trip to Bhubaneswar, Odisha from January 17-18, further showcasing the breadth of India-Singapore relations.

During his visit to Odisha, President Tharman met the Chief Minister of Odisha Mohan Charan Majhi and hosted a dinner with the Governor of Odisha Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati. He also participated

in an MOU exchange ceremony. President Tharman visited the World Skills Centre, which was set up by Singapore's Institute of Technical Education Education Services (ITEES) with funding from the Asian Development Bank, and a vaccine manufacturing plant by Bharat Biotech.

High Commissioner Dr. Shilpak Ambule Reflects on President Tharman's Visit to India

This year marks the 60th Anniversary of our diplomatic relations as well as Singapore's 60th Birthday. It was only appropriate that we started the year and the anniversary with a State Visit by President Tharman to India in January 2025.

The State Visit took place after an eventful last year. Prime Minister Modi visited Singapore in September 2024, when our bilateral relations were elevated to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership. The 2nd round of India-Singapore Ministerial Roundtable was held in August 2024 in Singapore.

In Delhi, President Tharman had productive meetings with our President and Prime Minister. Considering his stature and deep association with India, it was not surprising that he interacted with several Indian ministers, business leaders and academics during his visit.

After Delhi, President Tharman, accompanied by a business delegation, visited Odisha, affirming the role of Indian states in our relations with Singapore. Agreements in the areas of skill development with a particular emphasis on the



semiconductor sector, industrial parks and green economy were signed between Odisha and several Singaporean entities.

President Tharman's State Visit highlighted the importance attached by both sides to the bilateral relations.

It reaffirmed our mutual efforts to strengthen cooperation in forward-looking areas of semiconductors, industrial parks, aviation MRO, green and digital economies.

Food Empire Strengthens Central Asia Presence with First Coffee-Mix Production Facility in Kazakhstan



Food Empire



Food Empire Holdings Limited, a multinational food and beverage manufacturing and distribution group headquartered in Singapore, strengthens its Central Asia presence with its first coffee-mix production facility in Kazakhstan.

The new facility is set to be completed by the end of 2025 and will be located on a 10-hectare plot of land in the Khorgos Special Economic Zone. It will produce coffee-mix sachets, including its flagship MacCoffee brand, which is sold in over 60 countries.

This milestone reflects Food Empire's dedication to innovation and excellence, as well as the flourishing partnership between Kazakhstan and Singapore.



www.foodempire.com

KAZAKHSTAN

SPECIAL

TAKING STOCK FOLLOWING PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KAZAKHSTAN, HIS EXCELLENCY KASSYM-JOMART TOKAYEV'S STATE VISIT TO SINGAPORE IN MAY 2024



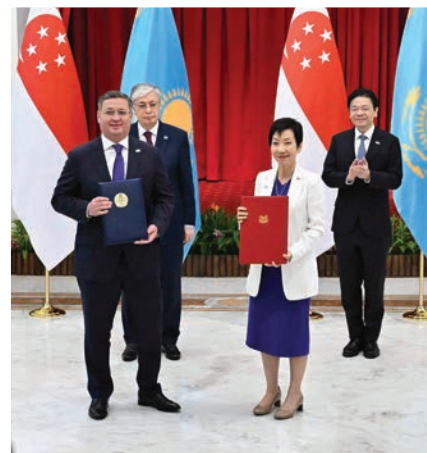
President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, during his visit to Singapore.



*"Today, Kazakhstan's economy is sound and business-friendly, effective institutions and democratic fundamentals are firmly in place."
writes H.E. Askar Kuttykadam, Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Singapore*

Accelerating Growth: Kazakhstan President's Singapore Visit Fosters Ties

President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's State Visit to Singapore Reinforces Economic and Strategic Ties.



President of the Republic of Kazakhstan, His Excellency Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, made a State Visit to Singapore from 22 to 24 May 2024, marking a significant milestone in the growing partnership between the two nations. Although this was his first State Visit as President, he has longstanding ties with Singapore, having served as a diplomat here in the 1970s and visited in various capacities over the years.

During his visit, President Tokayev received a ceremonial welcome at the Istana and met with President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who hosted a State Banquet in his honour. He also held discussions with Prime Minister and Minister for Finance Lawrence Wong, who hosted a

luncheon for him and his delegation. Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong also met with President Tokayev on 24 May.

A key highlight of the visit was President Tokayev's delivery of the 46th Singapore Lecture, titled "Kazakhstan and the Role of Middle Powers: Fostering Security, Stability and Sustainable Development", moderated by Senior Minister and Coordinating Minister for National Security Teo Chee Hean. This was the first Singapore Lecture delivered by a Central Asian leader, underscoring Kazakhstan's growing global influence.

Both leaders reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening economic cooperation. Prime Minister Lawrence Wong noted the

complementary nature of the two economies, with Singapore serving as a gateway for Kazakhstan's engagement with ASEAN, while Kazakhstan provides Singapore with a bridge to Central Asia.

The visit also underscored key flagship projects, including Alatau City (G4 City) in the Almaty region, developed in partnership with Singapore's Surbana Jurong, and the collaboration between PSA International and Kazakhstan Railways to enhance the Trans-Caspian international transport route. Education and scientific cooperation were also key discussion points, with a focus on fostering inter-university partnerships and student exchanges.

Kazakhstan's Bold Vision for the Future Bodes Well for Kazakhstan-Singapore Relations

BY H.E. ASKAR KUTTYKADAM, AMBASSADOR OF KAZAKHSTAN IN SINGAPORE

The bold leadership of Kazakhstan under President Tokayev and Singapore's forward-thinking strategies highlight shared aspirations for growth, inclusivity, and robust international partnerships.

As we enter 2025, it is making me reflect on the valuable lessons learned, as well as on the way forward. This year has been momentous in many regards. Geopolitically, it is hard to imagine a time in recent history when there has been so much at stake globally. In times of geopolitical disruption, a strong national leadership is in short supply.

Over the past five and a half years, President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev's Administration has been steadfastly building a Just and Emboldened Kazakhstan. In September, in his annual State-of-the-Nation Address titled 'Just Kazakhstan: Law and Order, Economic Growth, Public Optimism' President Tokayev made it crystal clear – we will not deviate from this strategic path, however challenging it could be.

Today, Kazakhstan's economy is sound and business-friendly, effective institutions and democratic fundamentals are firmly in place. The social fabric is strong, and all citizens feel they have a stake in Kazakhstan's future. Despite global challenges, Kazakhstan remains by far the largest economy and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in Central Asia. Truly, Kazakhstan is and will always be a Born Bold nation as long as our country-fellows remain united, open-minded, and enterprising.

In many regards, President Tokayev's vision echoes the 'Forward Singapore' exercise to refresh Singapore's social compact. Both of them "Put People First", and envisage that the fruits of progress must be shared fairly, with no one left behind. 2024 has been a truly remarkable year for the Kazakhstan-Singapore relations.

In May 2024, President Tokayev paid a successful State Visit to Singapore meeting with President Tharman



H.E. Askar Kuttykadam, Ambassador of Kazakhstan in Singapore

Shanmugaratnam, Prime Minister Lawrence Wong, and Senior Minister Lee Hsien Loong. He also delivered the 46th Singapore Lecture titled 'Kazakhstan and Role of the Middle Powers: Fostering Security, Stability and Sustainable Development'. A few weeks before, the Speaker of Singapore Parliament Seah Kian Peng visited Kazakhstan.

Those and several other high-level exchanges throughout 2024 highlighted Singapore's position as one of Kazakhstan's key partners in ASEAN and wider Asia-Pacific. Trade and economic ties remain the backbone of our partnership. In 2024, the parties ratified the Bilateral Investment Treaty that boosts investor confidence.

Soon, we anticipate ratification of the Trade in Services and Investment Agreement, which will facilitate access to each other's service sectors and provide even better protection

for our investors. Therefore, we invite Singaporean investors to step out of their comfort zone and harness the opportunities in Kazakhstan's emerging strategic sectors such as AI, renewable energy, critical materials, logistics, agribusiness, education, and tourism, to name a few.

Despite geographic distance, differences in size, history and geopolitical context, Kazakhstan and Singapore share many common aspirations. This year, our two countries proudly celebrate their respective historic milestones – the 35th anniversary of Kazakhstan's State Sovereignty, and Singapore's 60th Independence Day.

I strongly hope that in the years ahead, together, we will spare no effort towards building a successful future for our comprehensive partnership. This would be a truly excellent endeavour for Kazakhstan and Singapore!

'Born Bold' Campaign Showcases Investment Potential

New initiative highlights the country's strategic advantages and growth opportunities.

Kazakhstan is positioning itself as a leading investment hub, offering business and governments unique opportunities across key sectors. With its strategic location between European and Asian markets, an abundance of natural resources, and a government dedicated to economic growth and interethnic accord, the country stands out as a dynamic and forward-thinking destination for investment.

The "Kazakhstan Born Bold" campaign, launched to promote the nation's economic strengths, highlights the country's competitive advantages in logistics and transportation, youth and education, energy and the environment, and tourism and culture. The initiative seeks to attract international investors by showcasing Kazakhstan's progressive approach and its potential to drive global economic development.

With an economy experiencing rapid expansion, Kazakhstan is emerging as a key player in global trade. Its location at the crossroads of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East provides businesses with unrivalled access to diverse markets. The country is developing its logistics and transportation sector to solidify its position as a key transit hub for international trade.

In addition, Kazakhstan boasts a highly skilled workforce, making it an ideal destination for businesses looking to expand their talent pool. The government continues to invest in education and training to ensure a steady pipeline of professionals equipped with modern skills, further enhancing the country's competitive edge.

Kazakhstan is also making significant strides in the renewable energy sector. With a commitment to sustainability,



the nation is investing in green technologies to become a global force in the transition to clean energy.

Beyond economic prospects, Kazakhstan offers a rich cultural and tourism experience. Its diverse landscapes, vibrant cities, and unique cultural heritage make it an attractive destination for travellers and investors alike. As part of the "Kazakhstan Born Bold" campaign, the country is showcasing its untapped potential and inviting the world to explore its history, modernity, and future prospects.

Singaporean Companies in Kazakhstan

Singaporean enterprises drive economic growth in Kazakhstan through strategic investments in transport, manufacturing, technology, and education.

Kazakhstan continues to solidify its reputation as an attractive investment destination, drawing significant Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Kazakhstan is increasingly becoming a hub for international collaboration, particularly with Singaporean companies making notable inroads into various sectors.

At the Kazakh-Singapore Business Forum on 23 May 2024, a landmark agreement was signed between Global DTC Pte Ltd. and KTZ Express JSC to establish a digital customs corridor along the Trans-Caspian international transport route. This important initiative, backed by President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, will streamline customs clearance for goods transiting by rail from China to the European Union through Kazakhstan, leveraging the Tez Customs digital platform to enhance trade efficiency.

The manufacturing sector is also witnessing substantial Singaporean

investments. Food Empire, a Singapore-based company, secured a 10-hectare plot in the Khorgos Special Economic Zone (SEZ) to establish a coffee-mix production facility. With an initial investment of \$30 million, the facility underscores Kazakhstan's appeal to foreign investors, offering tax incentives and expansion opportunities. Meanwhile, International Cement Group (ICG) launched its \$153 million Korcem plant in the Jambyl Region on 30 October 2024, marking the largest Singaporean investment in Kazakhstan to date. This facility will boost ICG's annual production capacity by 1.5 million metric tonnes, reinforcing the country's infrastructure and urbanization efforts.

In technology and defense, Singaporean firms are deepening their engagement with Kazakhstan. Prime Minister Olzhas Bektenov met with TSC Global/GK Hyperscale to explore investments in digital infrastructure and IT services, a project

set to generate over 300 skilled jobs. Additionally, ST Engineering has partnered with Kazakhstan Paramount Engineering to locally manufacture 8x8 amphibious armored vehicles, demonstrating a commitment to strengthening Kazakhstan's defense capabilities and fostering local production.

Education remains a key area of collaboration between Kazakhstan and Singapore. Kingsmen Exhibits secured a \$34 million contract to develop the Museum of Science for Children in Almaty, aimed at fostering interactive STEM learning. Furthermore, Gateway Ventures inaugurated the Kazakhstan International School campus in Astana in 2024, providing a world-class educational environment that aligns with the country's vision for youth development.



Thailand and Singapore @60: A Celebration of Friendship and Future Opportunities

Thailand and Singapore mark a remarkable milestone in 2025 as they celebrate 60 years of diplomatic relations. The two nations have built a strong partnership based on mutual respect, cooperation, and shared aspirations. A series of commemorative events, cultural exchanges, and economic dialogues throughout the year aim to honor the journey of their bilateral ties while paving the way for future collaborations. At the heart of these celebrations is a newly unveiled commemorative logo, symbolizing the deep-rooted friendship and collective vision of both countries.



Commemorative Logo and Celebrations

The celebrations began on 24 January 2025, with the launch of a special logo at the Royal Thai Embassy in Singapore. The logo, featuring Thailand's elephant and Singapore's lion, is interwoven with both nations' flags in the number "60," representing their resilience and progress. H.E. Ureerat Chareontoh, Thailand's Ambassador to Singapore, and Mr. Loy Hui Chien from Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs led the launch event, reaffirming their commitment to stronger ties.

Year-long festivities include a reception on February 13 and the unveiling of "Orchids from the Land of Smiles" at Gardens by the Bay on February 14, reflecting cultural ties and appreciation for heritage.

Economic and Diplomatic Engagements

Economic cooperation remains a priority, with the 7th Singapore-Thailand Enhanced Economic Relationship (STEER) Ministerial Meeting on March 14. The 15th Civil Service Exchange Programme on June 24-25 will foster government collaboration. An academic seminar on August 26, titled "Thailand and Singapore @60: Echoing the Past, Envisioning the Future," will explore new opportunities.

An exhibition in September will highlight milestones in diplomatic relations, reinforcing the strength of bilateral ties. High-level official visits between the Prime Minister of Thailand and the President of Singapore will further cement their relationship.

Cultural Exchanges and Shared Heritage

Cultural celebrations will showcase Thailand's vibrant traditions. The Thai Festival, from May 30 to June 1, will feature Thai cuisine, arts, and performances. The Songkran Festival on March 30 will introduce Singaporeans to Thailand's traditional New Year celebrations. The Thai Film Festival is also being planned.

Looking Ahead: Strong@60

Under the theme "Realising Opportunities for New Growth – Strong@60," the commemorative year reflects on past achievements while embracing future collaborations in the digital economy, sustainability, and innovation.

Thailand Embassy National Day Celebrations

On 3 December 2024, H.E. Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, hosted a reception to mark the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, Thailand's National Day and Father's Day.

On 3 December 2024, H.E. Mrs. Ureerat Chareontoh, Ambassador of Thailand to Singapore, hosted a reception to mark the Birthday Anniversary of His Majesty King Bhumibol Adulyadej The Great, Thailand's National Day and Father's Day. The event was presided over by Dr. Tan See Leng, Minister for Manpower and Second Minister for Trade and Industry, as the Guest of Honour, along with Members of Parliament, Mr. Christopher de Souza and Ms. Yeo Wan Ling, as representatives of the Singapore government.



The celebration featured an exhibition honoring His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua, Thai traditional dance performances, cooking demonstrations, Thai food booths from selected Thai restaurants in Singapore, and beverages from leading Thai brands to showcase

Thailand's cultural identity and culture.

On this occasion, the Ambassador and the Minister emphasized the strong bilateral relations between Thailand and Singapore, which have flourished for nearly 60 years. Key milestones in 2024 included the 14th Thailand-Singapore Civil Service Exchange Programme (CSEP) held in Bangkok and the Official Visit to

Thailand by Prime Minister Lawrence Wong last week. Another significant area is people-to-people ties that remain robust, supported by ongoing cultural exchanges and activities organised by the Royal Thai Embassy, in collaboration with the Thai community and Singapore's public and private agencies.

SMF Manufacturing Day Summit 2025

Singapore embraces human-centric, sustainable manufacturing innovation, aiming to become a global hub for advanced technologies and collaboration.

The SMF Manufacturing Day Summit 2025 was held in Singapore on 17 January 2025. Graced by Guest of Honour Mr. Alvin Tan, Minister of Trade and Industry, the event highlighted Singapore's commitment to becoming a global leader in sustainable and human-centric manufacturing. Mr. Tan remarked, "as we celebrate 60 years of Singapore's independence this year, we also celebrate and remember how manufacturing has been such an integral role in the building of our nation. The manufacturing sector is very forward-looking, very orderly, and very innovative. But we still have not managed to manufacture a time machine."

Mr. Lennon Tan, President of the Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF), reiterated Singapore's commitment to leveraging advanced



technologies for a future-ready manufacturing ecosystem. He stated, "Singapore stands at the forefront of adopting innovative practices that prioritize sustainability, workforce upskilling, and collaboration. Together, we are building a resilient and inclusive manufacturing landscape."

Several Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) were signed during the summit, solidifying partnerships



aimed at fostering collaboration and growth. The launch of the MNC-SMB Alliance was a key highlight, promoting knowledge sharing and co-development between multinational corporations and small- and medium-sized businesses. Additionally, the formation of the Women in Manufacturing Committee marked a significant step towards supporting diversity and inspiring leadership roles for women in the industry.

India Celebrates 76th Republic Day

The High Commission of India in Singapore, led by High Commissioner Dr. Shilpak Ambule, commemorated India's 76th Republic Day with a series of vibrant celebrations, fostering unity, and cultural pride, and strengthening India-Singapore ties.

On 26 January 2025, the High Commission of India in Singapore, led by High Commissioner Dr. Shilpak Ambule, held a flag unfurling ceremony to mark the occasion. The event, attended by members of the Indian diaspora and friends of India, fostered a sense of unity and national pride.

Continuing the celebrations, the High Commission hosted a reception on 27 January 2025 at the Shangri-La Hotel in Singapore, with Singapore's Minister for Transport and Second Minister for Finance, Mr. Chee Hong Tat, as the Guest of Honour. The reception underscored the strong bilateral relations between India and Singapore, highlighting shared cultural and economic ties.

A key feature of the reception was the display of products from India's One District One Product initiative, showcasing the rich cultural heritage of various Indian states. Highlights included Papier Mache handicrafts and saffron from Jammu & Kashmir,



Moradabad Brassware bowl sets from Uttar Pradesh, Solapur pomegranates and tribal paintings from Maharashtra, Pattachitra paintings and Sambalpur silk stoles from Odisha, the Villianur terracotta horse from Puducherry, sea buckthorn berries and Pashmina shawls from Ladakh, and Umden silk stoles from Meghalaya.

Further adding to the cultural celebrations, the Indian Film Festival 2025 (IFF 2025) was officially launched on 22 January 2025 at Golden Village

Suntec City by Dr. Shilpak Ambule. Organised by the High Commission of India in Singapore in collaboration with the Singapore Film Society, the festival is set to run from 24 January to 2 March 2025. Supported by India's Ministry of Information & Broadcasting and the National Film Development Corporation, the festival will feature 18 films in seven Indian languages, celebrating India's cinematic diversity and its 60 years of diplomatic relations with Singapore.

Saudi-Singapore Water Forum 2025

The Saudi & Singapore Water Forum held on 24 January 2025 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel introduced Saudi Arabia's water sector to Singaporean stakeholders, highlighting opportunities for collaboration and investment.

The Saudi-Singapore Water Forum, hosted by the Saudi Water Authority and supported by Singapore's National Water Agency and the Singapore Water Association, took place on 24th January 2025 at the Mandarin Oriental Hotel. Running from 9 AM to 12 PM, the event brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and experts to discuss advancements in water governance and sustainability.

The forum opened with remarks from the Vice-President of the Singapore Water Association, followed by a keynote speech delivered by the President of the Saudi Water Authority. The event also featured a signing ceremony for memorandums of understanding and an announcement of new water-related innovations.

Saudi Arabia's water sector representatives highlighted the Kingdom's achievements, strategic projects, and investment opportunities, aiming to attract collaboration from Singaporean businesses and organisations. Singapore's presentations focused on the nation's innovative approaches to water sustainability, further fostering dialogue on shared goals and practices.

The forum concluded with a networking session and a roundtable workshop, where startups and researchers explored potential partnerships in water technology and innovation. This initiative showcased Saudi Arabia's growing role in the global water sector and Singapore's



leadership in water management solutions.

Ntsimbintle

A South African black empowerment company focused on manganese mining

Mining for Inclusion Job Opportunities and Growth

Ntsimbintle is a distinguished and successful, empowered mining investment company. Formed in 2003, to pursue exploration and mining opportunities emerging in the South African manganese sector, Ntsimbintle Holdings is a true B-BEE entity as envisaged in the spirit and intent of South Africa's Minerals and Petroleum Development Act

www.ntsimbintle.co.za





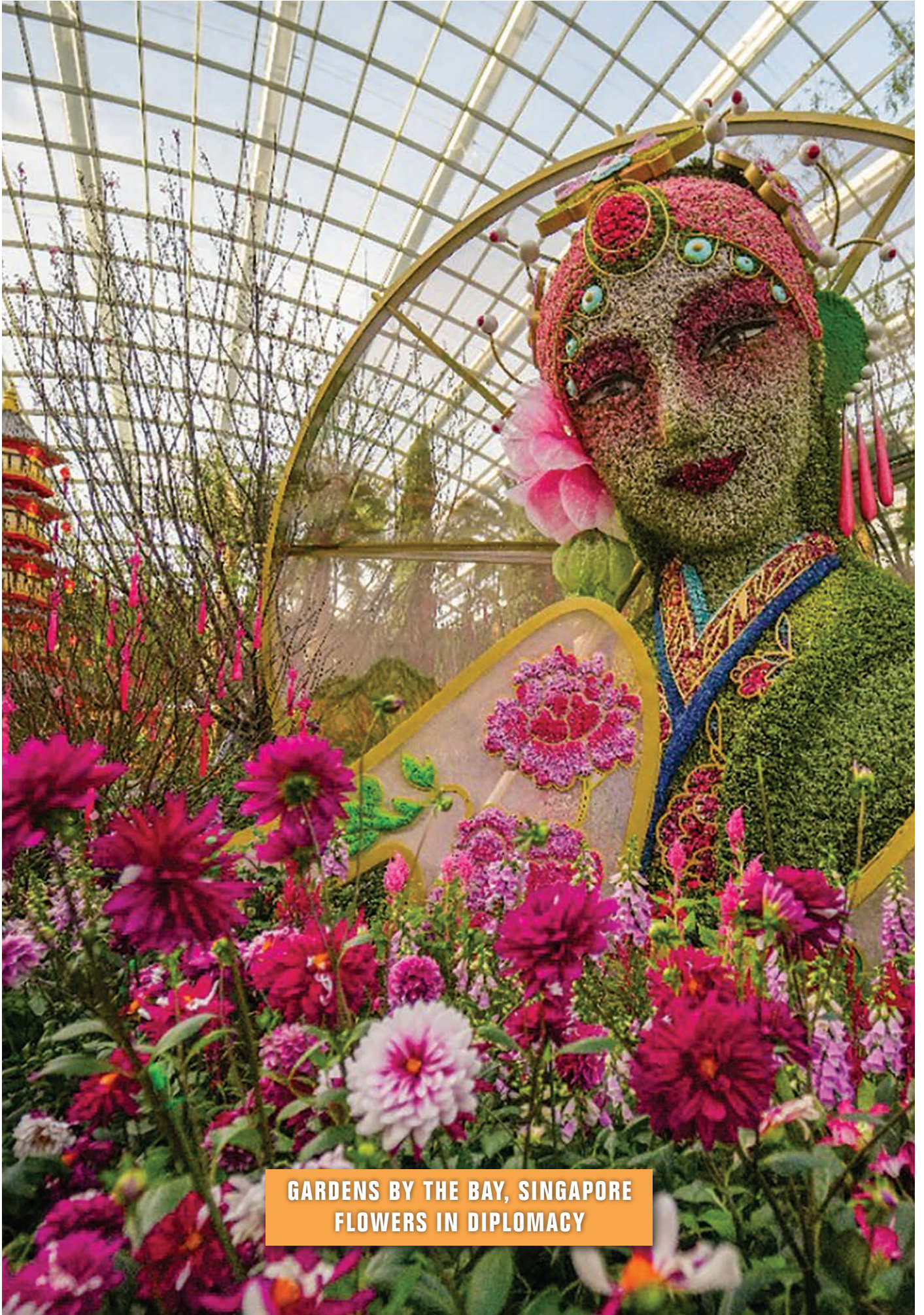
Olam Agri

Transforming food, feed & fibre

We're cultivating a sustainable
& food secure future through
our portfolio

Learn more at:
olamagri.com | [@olamagri](https://twitter.com/olamagri)





**GARDENS BY THE BAY, SINGAPORE
FLOWERS IN DIPLOMACY**