

# IN Diplomacy

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Published by Sun Media Pte Ltd  
www.sunmediaonline.com

Issue 44 November 2018  
www.indiplomacy.com

## 33<sup>RD</sup> ASEAN SUMMIT AND RELATED SUMMITS

11 - 15 NOVEMBER 2018, SINGAPORE



**Featuring**

**Highlights of the  
33rd ASEAN  
Summit**

**13th EAS Summit  
Report**

**Welcome Series  
Featuring  
Swedish Ambassador  
Niclas Kvarnström**

**Exclusive!**  
**PHL Trade Secretary  
Ramon Lopez Shares  
the Good News**

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**PHL Trade Secretary Ramon Lopez Shares the Good News**

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MCI (P) 078/06/2018



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Front Cover and Summit Photos appearing in this issue courtesy of:

- Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs,
- Singapore Ministry of Communication & Information
- ASEAN Secretariat

**IN Diplomacy** SPECIAL EDITION 2017  
MISSION TO COMMUNICATE  
**ANNUAL**

**Just a Reminder...**

It's time again to submit materials for the next edition of **IN Diplomacy Annual**.

We look forward to your participation this year with your mission's Bilateral Activities report card and this year's theme: **Top Three Products from Your Country**

**Send by 10th Dec 2018.**

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## Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Recaps Highlights of the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore



In his brief to Parliament, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr Vivan Balakrishnan, lauded the 'Whole-of-Nation' effort towards a successful conclusion of Singapore's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2018 and shared the highlights of the 33rd ASEAN Summit

**T**HE 33rd ASEAN and related Summits that were held in Singapore from 11th to 15th November 2018, were the last hosted by Singapore as the ASEAN Chair before handing over to Thailand. Apart from the 10 ASEAN nations leaders' Summits, Singapore also hosted leaders from the US, Russia, China, India, Japan, Korea, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Chile (who was a guest of the Chair). In addition to that, we also had Ms Christine Lagarde, Managing Director of the IMF.

When Singapore took over as Chair in early 2018, it had to take into cognizance the framework

within which it would be operating. ASEAN was then facing a world which has a pushback against free trade as also the fraying of the multilateral rules-based world order which it had grown accustomed to. Simultaneously an ongoing digital revolution was transforming prospects of jobs and the economy for the future. The city-state, as Chair, took the call to focus on the themes of innovation and resilience. On the economic front the thrust was on the progress of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP), which once settled will be the largest free trade pact. Other agreements of significance were the ASEAN agreement on e-commerce, the ASEAN single window facilitating customs clearance for goods moving across ASEAN and also the

ASEAN-wide self-certification scheme.

The agenda to focus on the multilateral rules-based world order came in very handy in addressing the sensitive South China Sea issue. Singapore as coordinator for ASEAN-China relations was enabled to arrive at a single draft negotiating text on the Code of Conduct (COC), which provides a good basis on which future negotiations can proceed. A flagship project for Singapore's Chairmanship was the launch of the ASEAN Smart Cities Network which identified 26 pilot cities across Southeast Asia. Singapore has handed over the ASEAN Chairmanship to Thailand, but will continue to shepherd this concept, and act as a facilitator for efforts in smart cities across Southeast Asia.

*Post-2018, Singapore will continue to play the role of 'Shepherd' for the ASEAN Smart Cities Network, and continue to bring new ideas to the table... We will work with our counterparts to build a more united, resilient and innovative ASEAN in the years to come. ASEAN remains a cornerstone of our foreign policy*

## 13th East Asia Summit: Concern Expressed on Climate Change



**T**HE 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) and EAS Lunch Retreat was held in Singapore on 15 November 2018. The Meeting was chaired by H.E. Lee Hsien Loong, Prime Minister of the Republic of Singapore, and attended by Heads of State/Government of

ASEAN Member States, Australia, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Russian Federation and the United States of America (US), and their representatives. The Secretary-General of ASEAN was also in attendance.

The august gathering affirmed its commitment to further strengthen the EAS as a Leaders-led forum for dialogue on broad strategic, political and economic issues of common interest and concern with the aim of promoting peace, stability, and economic prosperity in the region, in line with the 2015 Kuala Lumpur Declaration on the 10th Anniversary of the EAS (KL Declaration) and based on the established objectives, principles and modalities of the EAS.

Concern was expressed over the adverse impact of climate change to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of all countries. It was noted the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, for those countries determined to implement it, and looked forward to developing modalities, procedures and guidelines for adoption at the upcoming 24th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP 24) which will take place in Katowice, Poland from 2 to 14 December 2018.

# World Leaders Attend the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Meetings...

...with a total of nine summits between November 13-16, 2018. Here are some highlights of their messages

For the full report please visit [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com) EMBER 2018, SINGAPORE



Leaders at the 13th East Asia Summit Plenary Session (Photo: ASEAN 2018 Secretariat)

## Official Programme

### DAY 1 (12 Nov 2018)

- Signing Ceremony on ASEAN Agreements
- 17th ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) Council Meeting

### DAY 2 (13 Nov 2018)

- 18th ASEAN Political-Security Community (APSC) Council Meeting
- 22nd ASEAN Coordinating Council (ACC) Meeting
- Official Opening of 33rd ASEAN & Related Summits
- ASEAN Summit Plenary Meeting

### DAY 3 (14 Nov 2018)

- 21st ASEAN-China Summit
- 20th ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit
- 3rd ASEAN-Russia Summit
- 21st ASEAN-Japan Summit
- 2nd RCEP Summit

### DAY 4 (15 Nov 2018)

- ASEAN-India Informal Breakfast Summit
- 6th ASEAN-US Summit
- 21st ASEAN Plus Three (APT) Summit
- East Asia Summit (EAS) Lunch Retreat
- Smart Cities Showcase EAS and ASEAN Leaders
- 13th EAS Plenary

## UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

U.S. Vice President Michael Pence, represented President Donald Trump at the 33rd Asean Summit and Related Meetings. Addressing the audience at the meet, Vice President Pence stressed the American commitment to the region. He also shared: “Our vision for the Indo-Pacific excludes no nation. It only requires that every nation treat their neighbors with respect, they respect the sovereignty of all nations and the international rules of order.”



## CHINA

One of the key side-events at the Asean Summit was the the Asean-China summit, where both entities promised to strengthen efforts to meet the joint target of US\$1 trillion in trade volume and US\$150 billion in investment by 2020. ASEAN and China also announced a roadmap titled “ASEAN-China Strategic Partnership Vision 2030” in a bid to bolster ties between the two. During the Asean-China summit, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang revealed that China is expecting the Code of Conduct consultation

in the disputed South China Sea to be completed soon in the hope that it would contribute to enduring peace and stability in the South China Sea. China’s premier sought to reassure its neighbors that Beijing will push ahead with reforms needed to support growth across the region and also keep the peace in contested waters in the South China Sea. “We have found the way to properly manage and defuse differences, for example, on the issue of the South China Sea in the past years,” Li said, adding that the situation was moving toward “greater stability” with progress toward a single draft text on a code of conduct in the sea. He reiterated Beijing’s hope to have a final agreement within three years.

## RUSSIA

It was the Russian President Vladimir Putin first state visit to Singapore when he arrived for the 3rd ASEAN–Russia summit, 13th East Asia Summit (EAS), and 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Singapore, in conjunction with the 33rd ASEAN Summit.

It spotlighted Russia’s efforts to broaden its relationship with the East. Four bilateral agreements between Russian and Singapore were signed on the sidelines of the visit. Bilateral trade relations have grown from S\$1.9 billion (US\$1.4 billion) in 2007 to S\$7.4 billion (US\$5.4 billion) in 2017. His attending the two summits appears to signal President Putin’s



Continued next page...

For the full report please visit [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)

...continued from previous page.

assurance to Russia's Southeast Asian partners - in particular ASEAN - that Russia is serious about enhancing these ties. The signing of a new agreement between Asean and the Eurasian Economic Commission after the Asean-Russia Summit is expected to contribute to trade, investment and economic expansion between South-east Asian countries and member states of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

## JAPAN

A meeting was held between Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the 33rd Asean Summit and Related Summits on 15 November 2018.



Both leaders welcomed the entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP). Prime Minister applauded the leadership role played by Prime Minister Abe and Japan in the CPTPP. Singapore and Japan are also working closely to achieve a swift conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) by next year. Also discussed at the meet was the status of ASEAN-Japan relations and developments in Northeast Asia, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

## INDIA

Prime Minister Lee also met Prime Minister of the Republic of India Narendra Modi. The two leaders discussed ways to deepen the mutually rewarding cooperation between Singapore and India in various areas including trade and investment, skills, smart cities, defence, and innovation and FinTech. They welcomed the launch of the 3rd Review of the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) in September 2018, and the 25th anniversary of the Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise (SIMBEX) that is currently ongoing. Both leaders agreed to keep up the momentum towards greater connectivity, including boosting air links, economic integration through harnessing financial technology, and concluding the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) soon. PM Modi also held several bilateral talks with world leaders— US Vice President Mike Pence; Australian PM Scott Morrison; Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong; and Thailand PM General Prayut Chan-o-cha, on the sidelines of the 2nd RCEP Summit, East Asia Summit, and ASEAN Summit. The Indian Prime Minister also addressed the audience during the Fintech Conference along with the IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde. He became the first head of government to deliver the keynote speech at the Singapore Fintech Festival.



## SOUTH KOREA

Speaking at the ASEAN-Republic of Korea Summit during the course of the 33rd Asean Summit in Singapore President Moon Jae-in (pictured below seated left) shared that South Korea's New Southern Policy marks its strong commitment to prosper together with ASEAN. Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong put the spotlight on the importance of upgrading the Asean-Republic of Korea Free Trade Area, establishing an Asean-Korea Air Services Agreement and cooperating through the



Asean Smart Cities Network. South Korea is the region's fifth-largest trading partner. Both sides aim to reach a trade volume of US\$200 billion by 2020. In 2016 the two-way trade in was US\$118.8 billion, making ASEAN the second largest trading partner of South Korea. South Korea is Asean's fifth largest trading partner and fifth largest investor.

## NEW ZEALAND

During the course of the 33rd Summit Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong took time out to meet New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. Both Prime Ministers reaffirmed the close relations between Singapore and New Zealand, which are working towards establishing an Enhanced Partnership (EP). Both leaders announced the conclusion of the 3rd Review of the Agreement between New Zealand and Singapore on a Closer Economic Partnership (ANZSCEP), which will form a key component of the EP, and are looking forward to the signing of the EP and upgraded ANZSCEP next year. They also exchanged views on regional issues. Singaporean Minister for Foreign Affairs Dr Vivian Balakrishnan and New Zealand's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs Winston Peters also met on the sidelines of the 33rd Asean Summit and Related Summits.

## CANADA

Prime Minister Lee and Prime Minister Trudeau welcomed the new areas of bilateral cooperation, including the agreements signed between Cyber Security Agency of Singapore (CSA) and Global Affairs Canada (GAC) on cybersecurity cooperation, and between Infrastructure Asia (IA) and GAC on infrastructure and smart cities cooperation. Both leaders discussed regional and international developments and welcomed the entry into force of the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership (CPTPP), which would promote regional economic integration and bring about benefits for businesses and people in both countries. Prime Minister Trudeau thanked Prime Minister Lee for the invitation to participate in the ASEAN Summit as Guest of the Chair, and reiterated Canada's commitment to ASEAN's agenda. Prime Minister Lee welcomed Canada's interest in deepening its economic engagement of the region.

## AUSTRALIA

ASEAN leaders met new Australian PM Scott Morrison for an informal breakfast summit on the second day of the Summit. During the bilateral meeting between Prime Minister Lee and the Australian Prime Minister the two leaders reaffirmed the excellent relations between Singapore and Australia, which were enhanced by the Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (CSP) signed in 2015. They agreed that there is scope to further deepen and expand bilateral cooperation under the CSP. Prime Minister Morrison expressed appreciation for Singapore's 2018 ASEAN Chairmanship. The two Prime Ministers also exchanged views on regional issues. In November 2018, ASEAN 2018 Chair, Singapore, invited Australia to join China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Russia, the United States and innovative Singaporean companies to take part in a Smart Cities Showcase as part of the 33rd ASEAN Summits programme.

## CHILE

President of the Republic of Chile Sebastián Piñera was in Singapore at the instance of Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, to attend the 33rd ASEAN Summit and Related Summits as a Guest of the Asean Chair. The Chilean President attended a working lunch hosted by Prime Minister Lee for ASEAN Leaders and Guests of the ASEAN Chair, with the theme of "Free Trade and the Global Economy" on 14 November 2018, as well as the Gala Dinner on the same evening. The luncheon meet was part of efforts to cement relations between the South American nation and the regional Asian bloc. President Piñera had meetings with Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on 14 November 2018, and separately called on President Halimah Yacob (pictured above) at the Istana on 15 November 2018.



## Still Gung-Ho Over Growing Economy

by Nomita Dhar

Philippines Secretary of Trade Ramon Lopez takes time out from the ASEAN Summit to talk to *IN Diplomacy* about RCEP negotiations and the country's prospects ahead in 2019

**T**rade Secretary Ramon M. Lopez indicates what an exciting time it is for the Philippines as it comes away from the positive vibes of the 2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Summit (RCEP) Summit and looks to capitalize on a burgeoning economy powered by its new Ease of Doing Business and high potential for investors.

The 2nd RCEP Summit is one of several held in conjunction with the 33rd ASEAN Summit in Singapore and according to the Trade Secretary the negotiations went off much better this time round compared to the last meeting, and saw the conclusion of seven Chapters: Economic and Technical Cooperation, SMEs, Customs and Trade, Government Procurement, Institutional Provisions, Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures, and Technical Regulations and Conformity Assessment Procedures.

He was very hopeful that when the RCEP meets next year it would wrap up negotiations. The success of this, he said, would mean greater market access to these participating countries, not just

for goods but also for services and investments as well.

### Bona Fide Game Changer

Trade Secretary Lopez said the agreement will be a bona fide game changer in the world order in terms of trade and investment, because there have been positive signals in the way trade is conducted as the RCEP is a mega-trade deal which accounts for one half of the world population when it comes to market size and one-third of the world's economy. "So, this is really a huge trade deal, and that's why we need a little more time for participants with different levels of development, as well as different domestic priorities to come to terms. Everybody is clear on where we stand right now. So there is only a minor stage of negotiations left for next year", he reveals when asked why the RCEP negotiations were not completed at the 2nd Summit this year.

The Philippines economy has been growing at a robust pace and according to Lopez the narrative



of this growth of 6.8 percent is a very good one. "We believe the good thing about this growth is that it has had a strong momentum when it comes to the goods sector pulling up the economy. The fact is the manufacturing sector provides decent jobs and is a good foundation for our economy. This is in addition to the growth of the services sector which was the only sector that was pulling up the economy at a rate of about 7 to 8 per cent. Now all sectors are growing," he shared.

On the demand side, he reveals, instead of it just being about consumption the Philippines is growing quiet rapidly on the investment front. What's growing the economy now are the production sectors, which, in fact, are growing their capacities for the future growth of the nation, and that is one of the main reasons, he says, that the country is very bullish on sustained growth."

## Heads of Mission of India and Indonesia Share Thoughts on their Countries' Participation

### H.E. Jawed Ashraf, Indian High

#### Commissioner to Singapore:

"Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi visited Singapore from 14-15 November 2018 – his second this year. After a hugely successful trip in June 2018 for an official bilateral visit and to deliver the keynote address at the Shangri La Dialogue, PM Modi's November visit further reinforced and reaffirmed India's engagement in the Indo Pacific Region and, in particular, with ASEAN member states. Prime Minister had a productive breakfast meeting with ASEAN leaders, which built on the ASEAN-India Commemorative Summit held in Delhi in January 2018. In the East Asia Summit, he outlined India's vision for security, stability and prosperity in the Indo Pacific Region, anchored in ASEAN unity and centrality; and reiterated India's commitment to work for an early conclusion of fair, balanced and comprehensive RCEP at the RCEP Summit. He also had a number of bilateral meetings with participating leaders in EAS.



PM Modi became the first Head of Government to deliver the keynote address at the Singapore Fintech Festival – the world's largest with 40,000 participants – where he outlined India's dramatic success in financial inclusion and digitization, as an instrument for economic empowerment and development, especially of the weak and the marginalized, and laid out a global agenda for fintech. He also met the 150 university participants from India and Singapore in the first India-Singapore Hackathon and awarded the winners. The first meeting of the India-Singapore CEO Forum also took place on the margins of PM Modi's visit."



### H.E. Ngurah Swajaya, The Republic of Indonesia Ambassador

to Singapore: "The three-day visit of President Joko Widodo and First Lady, Iriana Joko Widodo to Singapore to attend the 33rd ASEAN Summit and its related summits had a very hectic programme. It had an agenda that was packed with meetings bilateral in nature as well as direct contact with many of the leaders attending the Summit. Before the opening ceremony, we managed to squeeze in a lunch function for the President to meet Singapore-based Indonesians at an Indonesian restaurant where he was very enthusiastically welcomed.

On November 14 and 15 there were full-day meetings where President Jokowi met with President Pinera of Chile, President Putin of Russia, Prime Minister Morrison of Australia, Vice President Michael Pence of USA, Prime Minister Shintaro Abe of Japan. Some of the key issues that were deliberated on by the President included strengthening the ASEAN Centrality in the ASEAN-led Indo-Pacific, conclusion of the RCEP negotiations, promoting economic collaboration rather than a zero sum game, collaboration to address trans-national crimes and addressing the issue of Rohingya, particularly ensuring the safe and voluntary repatriation of refugees from Rakhine State."

## WELCOME AMBASSADOR SERIES

## H.E. NICLAS KVARNSTRÖM

## Innovation an Impetus for Future Growth

by Nomita Dhar, Publisher & Editor-in-Chief



Having straddled the twin towers of the corporate world and diplomacy, Sweden's new ambassador to Singapore, brings to bear the skills honed within the framework of these diametrically separate fields, to the challenges of his new assignment in Singapore - the gateway to one of the most politically and economically charged regions of the world

**L**OOKING back on his career choices as an individual and as a family man H.E. Niclas Kvarnström reflects on the excellent experiences he has garnered for his new assignment in a region he is not only familiar with, but has come to love. As an old Asia hand he is well versed in the rich nuances and niceties required to engage with the land and the people and to bring the very best of his learnings to making this assignment a success on many fronts.

This symbiotic connect with Asia goes back to those early university days when he chose to study Chinese. "It was different and it was a challenge," he shares - a trait which has singularly marked his take on life. Leaving aside a career in finance (Morgan Stanley in Hong Kong, Goldman Sachs in London and New York) suddenly in 2001 he decided to enter the world of diplomacy. In due course he along with his wife got a diplomatic posting in Beijing. The ambassador is of the firm belief that new learnings bring fresh impetus to ones pursuits. Postings abroad were peppered with stints in the home country. "From the point of view of the civil services its good when we return with new experiences which we may not have had otherwise," he shares.

The closeness of Sweden and Singapore over the years is a precious commodity as it is rooted in shared interests and qualities. "If there is one word that summarises the core of our relations it is "Innovation", because both governments focus on and provide the resources for it. What's been a critical factor in this endeavor have been the advanced academic research and development sphere and the partnerships between Singapore and Sweden on this front. Sweden has about four hundred firms based in Singapore of varying sizes who are in pursuit of the twin goals of innovation and sustainability as the environment in the island -state, which is a regional financial hub, is highly conducive to this, he reveals.

### Super-Important

Being a small country Sweden's embassy here, he shares, needs to be really focused. There are some things that are on priority and he is all set to accomplish his mission.

*For the full report please visit: [www.indiplomacy.com](http://www.indiplomacy.com)*

## Presentation of Credentials

IN Diplomacy welcomes the following heads of missions who presented their credentials to HE President Halimah Yacob.

24 October 2018



The Ambassador of Japan  
His Excellency Jun Yamazaki



The Ambassador of the Republic of Guinea  
His Excellency Senkoun Sylla

9 November 2018



High Commissioner of Malaysia to Singapore  
Dato' Zainol Rahim bin Zainiddin

### Why Diplomacy Matters

Singapore is home to 70 resident foreign High Commissions and Embassies, 43 Consular Posts and 11 International Organisations. They act as a conduit between Singapore and their respective countries. Diplomatic missions are headed by influential newsmakers who open doors for business, trade, investment, education, the arts and culture. IN Diplomacy has a mission to communicate and be a bridge between the diplomatic community and Singaporeans.



## New Jordanian Embassy 8th Nov 2018

*Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan in Singapore, Suntec City*

A new milestone in the ties between Jordan and Singapore was established with the official opening of the Embassy of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan located at Suntec City. The event was officiated by Jordan's Foreign Minister H.E. Ayman Safadi and Singapore was represented by his counterpart H.E. Dr Vivian Balakrishnan. Minister Ayman said it is a "step towards a new phase in relations of economic and commercial cooperation and greater cooperation" and thanked Jordanian Ambassador to Singapore H.E. Mahmoud D. Hmoud for the great effort put into the launching of the embassy.



## Belgium's King's Day 12th Nov 2018

*The Tower Club, Republic Plaza Penthouse*



BELGIUM's annual King's Day reception in Singapore was held at the Tower Club where the country's Secretary of State for the Fight against Fraud, Privacy and North Sea, Philippe De Backer, as well as Cathy Berx, Governor of Antwerp, were present with a 40-people strong delegation of Belgian CEOs and business owners. Dr Maliki Osman, Senior Minister of State, Ministry of Defence, Singapore (MINDEF) and Singapore Ministry of Foreign Affairs, graced the event. Another highlight was fellow Belgian Arnoud De Meyer, President of Singapore Management University, received the 'Commander in the Order of Leopold' from H.M. King Philip of Belgium, bestowed upon him by the Secretary of State.

## Egypt Embassy Talk 14 Nov 2018

*Income at Raffles, Collyer Quay*

'EGYPT: The Economic and Political Outlook' was a roundtable discussion with government officials on current topics affecting Asia and other regions in the world. It was organised as part of the Duane Morris & Selvam Ambassador Series of talks and featured the Egyptian Ambassador in Singapore H.E. Mohamed Abulkheir who answered questions and gave insights into the country's socio-political and economic scenes.



## Uzbekistan Supreme Court Judges Visit 3-7 Nov 2018

A delegation headed by Uzbekistan's Deputy Chairman of the Supreme Court B.Isakov visited Singapore to study best practices in the field of organising the activities of specialized judicial bodies in dispute resolution with the participation of foreign investors. They had meetings at the Supreme Court, International Commercial Court, the Singapore Management University and held discussions on judicial and legal system reforms.



## Kazakhstan Biz Forum 21st Nov 2018

*Shangri-la Hotel, Singapore*

THE Embassy of The Republic of Kazakhstan and Meinhardt Singapore Pte Ltd presented the first ever Kazakhstan-Singapore Business Forum which was graced by ESM Mr Goh Chok Tong. Mr Bakytzhan Sagintayev, Prime Minister of Kazakhstan gave the Opening Address. The forum was preceded by the signing of a Bilateral Investment Treaty between Singapore and Kazakhstan. This was followed by 12 other agreements signed at the forum covering partnerships in the areas such as information and communication technology, food and education.



## Indian Navy Visit 20th Nov 2018

*Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, India*

THE 25th India-Singapore SIMBEX (Singapore-India Maritime Bilateral Exercise) naval exercise took place over 10 days with the largest ever deployment and most complex exercises with live firing. Singapore's Defence Minister Dr Ng Eng Hen visited SIMBEX and according to the Indian High Commission in Singapore this sets the stage for deeper naval cooperation and even stronger strategic partnership between Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India PMO India Ministry of Defence, Singapore.



## Indian PM First for Fintech

*14th Nov 2018 Singapore Expo*

PM Narendra Modi visited the India Pavilion at Singapore Fintech Festival. With 18 participants, the India Pavilion had the highest number of companies among the 16 country pavilions in the Exhibition. The Indian Prime Minister also addressed the audience during the Fintech Conference along with the IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde. He became the first head of government to deliver the keynote speech at the Singapore Fintech Festival.

