

## Strategic Partners in the **Truest** Sense



**PM Modi in Singapore: An EXTRAORDINARY Visit**





# POWERING GLOBAL GATEWAYS

PSA CONGRATULATES THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA  
ON ITS 72<sup>ND</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF INDEPENDENCE.

PSA HAS OPERATED IN INDIA FOR 20 YEARS STARTING WITH  
ITS FIRST CONTAINER TERMINAL PROJECT IN TUTICORIN IN 1998.  
IN FEBRUARY 2018, WE COMMENCED OPERATIONS FOR INDIA'S LARGEST  
CONTAINER TERMINAL IN NAVI MUMBAI.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO GROWING ALONGSIDE WITH INDIA.

# INDIA & ASEAN: PACE & PROGRESS OF RELATIONS PICKING UP



**Nomita Dhar**  
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

It is a very auspicious moment in India-Singapore ties as two nations celebrate crucial landmarks in their individual history. While Singapore celebrates its National Day on 9th August, India celebrates its 72nd Independence Day on 15th August. The historical ties between India and Singapore continue to be strengthened by a robust ongoing interchange on multiple levels, be it trade, business, technology, education or culture. Singapore FDI equity inflows from Singapore were to the tune of US\$ 12.18 billion, second only to that from Mauritius (US\$ 15.94 billion) in 2017-18. These figures are anticipated to grow significantly as more MoUs were signed between India and Singapore during the Prime Minister's visit in June.

The engagement between the two nations has been infused with fresh vigour as they take into cognizance their growing importance in regional affairs in an increasingly dynamic global scenario. Singapore is the springboard to ASEAN - a region which represents the greatest level of diversity of

culture, religion, language, governance and prosperity of any grouping in the world. As the Prime Minister in his keynote address at the Shangri-La dialogue pointed out: "With ASEAN, from dialogue partners, we have become strategic partners over the course of 25 years. We pursue our relations through annual summits and 30 dialogue mechanisms."

Critical to this engagement has been India's ties with the region dating back from around 200 BCE till the 15th century. In his address at the Shangri-La Dialogue the Prime Minister shared that 2018 was a land-mark year of India's relationship with ASEAN. "Over the past three decades, we have re-claimed that heritage to restore our role and relationships in the region," he said.

Today, India and ASEAN account for about 30% of the global population (1.85 billion people) and a combined GDP of approximately US\$5.4 trillion. India aims to sustain its growth of 7.5 to 8% per year. Its growing economy will be a catalyst for its increasing global and regional integration. India's youthful population of 800 million is increasingly aware that its future will be secured not just by the scale of India's economy, but also by the depth of global engagement. The Prime Minister has been vigorously propagated the several initiatives launched by the government for speedy economic development of the country like Make in India, Skill India, Digital India, promote energy security, create infrastructure, build smart cities etc, in order to open up new avenues of conversations which will engage the youth population of the ASEAN countries as also East Asia.

Being one of the most dynamic regions in the world today ASEAN as a grouping, along with India, could be well positioned to shape the so called 'Asian Century'. Analysts say even conservative estimates suggest that the emerging Asian economies will be equivalent to those of Europe or North America in terms of their share of global production in the coming decade. Broadening the spectrum of future engagement, the Prime Minister in his keynote address at the Shangri-La Dialogue said that India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region is that of a free, open and inclusive region that embraces all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity.

**Nomita Dhar**  
Publisher & Editor-in-Chief

**Best Wishes for  
Singapore's 53rd National Day  
& India's 72nd Independence Day**



**PUBLISHER  
& EDITOR-IN-CHIEF**  
Nomita Dhar

**EDITORIAL**  
Ranee Sahaney  
Prionka Ray  
Arjun Dhar

**DESIGN**  
Syed Jaafar Alkaff

**ADVERTISING  
& MARKETING**  
Swati Singh

**PHOTOS**  
High Commission of India,  
Singapore  
India Tourism, Singapore  
Indian Ministry of External Affairs  
Press Bureau of India  
Singapore Ministry of  
Communications and Information

**PRINTING**  
Stamford Press Pte Ltd

**MCI (P) 092/10/2017**  
© Copyright 2018 by Sun Media Pte Ltd. All materials in this publication are strictly copyrighted and all rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced in whole or in part without prior written permission of the copyright holder. All facts are correct at the time of publication. While every effort has been made to ensure the information that appears in this publication is correct at the time of production, changes might occur and Sun Media Pte Ltd shall not be liable for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies that occur.

**A PUBLICATION OF**

**SUN MEDIA**  
communication with soul

20 Kramat Lane  
#01-02 United House  
Singapore 228773

**TEL:** (65) 6735 2972 / 1907, 2986

**FAX:** (65) 6735 3114

**E-MAIL:** admin@sunmediaonline.com

**WEB:** www.sunmediaonline.com

## CONTENTS

- 01 Editor's Note** Pace and Progress Picking Up
- 04 Bilateral Ties** HE Jawed Ashraf: Modi in Singapore - An Extraordinary Visit
- 10 Cover Story: Strategic Partners in the Truest Sense**
- 30 Behind the Scenes** Sponsors
- 32 Culture** - Apsaras Behind Riveting Dance-Drama Anushasanam
- 34 Cuisine** - Sarab Kapoor Culinary Conundrums
- 36 Heritage** - The Fullerton Heritage
- 22 INDIA AT 72** India-Singapore Down Memory Lane
- 28 INDIA AT 72** Message from the SMF
- 29 Peak Performance** Mughal-e-Azam the Musical Comes to Town
- 38 Peak Perspective** We Must Get to Know India Better - Dr T Chandroo
- 40 Peak Performer** PSA Starts Operation at India's Largest Container Terminal in Mumbai
- 42 TRAVEL** Wellness Holidays: Healing Journeys in India
- 46 WELLNESS** Yoga for Everyone, Everywhere
- 48 Last Words** Abdul Kalam Vision Society: Igniting Minds





# Real-world ingenuity through virtual connectivity

Discover NextGen learning at GIIS SMART Campus.

At our 21<sup>st</sup> century campus, learning is not confined to the four walls of a classroom. Students can connect with knowledge experts and peers from around the world in real-time, even while they are not on school premises. Made possible with new state-of-the-art systems that make our classrooms broadcast-ready, this technology complements our pedagogy and benefits all our students. By expanding the learning environment and increasing opportunities for collaboration, your child will develop a passion for learning that continues long after they make their mark on the global stage.

Call +65 6914 7000 or  
visit [schoolofthefuture.sg](http://schoolofthefuture.sg)

Register for our open house at [schoolofthefuture.sg/openhouse](http://schoolofthefuture.sg/openhouse)  
or a campus tour at [singapore.giis.events/campustour](http://singapore.giis.events/campustour)

27 Punggol Field Walk, Singapore 828649



 [Global\\_Schools](#)    [globalschools](#)    [GIISHeadquarters](#)    [GIISSMARTCampusSingapore](#)



Member of Global Schools Foundation

CPE Reg No. - Global Indian International School | CPE Reg No. 200912349N  
Validity: 25th Feb 2015 to 24th Feb 2019 | Committee for Private Education  
(CPE) is a part of Skillsfuture Singapore (SSG)

# InSpRENEUR 2.0

STEPPING INTO THE FUTURE



(Top left & right): PM Lee Hsien Loong was on hand to welcome and accompany PM Modi through the second edition of the InSpRENEURE exhibit booths

## Modi in Singapore: An EXTRAORDINARY Visit

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi had the honour of delivering the Shangri-la Dialogue's Keynote Address and sharing India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region. There were other highlights of the official 3-day visit to Singapore that left an impact on many people here. India's High Commissioner to the Republic of Singapore, HE Jawed Ashraf, shared some 'behind the scenes' insights on why this was no ordinary trip in this 'one-on-one' brief to Shikhar's Editor-in-chief Nomita Dhar*



**G**ood morning Excellency. The year 2018 has already been a very eventful one and a phenomenal one for India - Singapore relations. While Singapore celebrates its National Day on August 9, India will be celebrating Independence Day on August 15th, so, we meet at a very important juncture in this historic relationship. Do share with us all the wonderful things that have happened this year for both nations on this front.

Well, there's been a constant engagement between us at a very high level. We began 2018 with the ASEAN-India **Pravasi Bhartiya Divas**, which was the ASEAN-India Diaspora meet here in Singapore on 6-7th January 2018.

We had a very high level of participation from the ASEAN region, particularly from Singapore and India. We had our External



Three new Indian Fintech products and services were launched at the business event held at the Marina Bay Sands Grand Ballroom

**“In terms of outcome we had specifically at least 35 concrete outcomes covering every area... One of the most important things that have happened has been the conclusion of the Second Review of the Comprehensive Economic Co-operation, an agreement which has been pending for seven years. ...it provides a foundation for a much higher level of economic engagement”**

Affairs Minister Mrs Sushma Swaraj, our Union Minister of Road Transport and Highways, Nitin Gadkari and from Singapore we had the Deputy Prime Minister Teo Chee Hean, Dr Vivian Balakrishnan Minister for Foreign Affairs and S. Iswaran Minister for Trade and Industry (Industry).

In January this year we had of course the extraordinary and rare summit in Delhi where all 10 leaders of ASEAN were the chief guests at India's **Republic Day**, the first time ever that India had more than one chief guest on the occasion. An honour indeed.

Another highlight has been the extraordinary visit of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Singapore for both

an official bilateral visit and to deliver the keynote address at the **Shangri -la Dialogue**, where he unveiled India's vision for the Indo-Pacific region. This again underpinned both the depth of our relationship with the region and the intensity with which we have pursued it for the past four years. It also pointed to the future of how India sees its role and responsibility in the region and also what India feels are the six key principles (see accompanying box story next page) that will ensure that this region remains inclusive and a region of peace, stability and prosperity in this century. The bilateral visit was a great success. We have a wide-ranging programme which covers the four pillars of our relationship with Singapore. Our strategic partnership—the strategic, political and defense is in

one basket, the economy in the second basket, technology and innovation in the third and cultural and people-to-people ties between the two nations in the fourth basket. You would have seen that the programme had everything both in terms of programming and outcomes.

In terms of outcome we had at least 35 concrete outcomes covering every area, including defense - for which we have a logistics agreement which provides mutual support for both the Indian and Singaporean armed forces with naval bases and air bases; we also have the agreement for cyber security. One of the most important things that have happened has been the conclusion of the **Second Review of the Comprehensive Economic Co-operation**, an

## Major Elements of India's Indo-Pacific Vision

*Extracts from PM Narendra Modi Keynote Address at the Shangri-la Dialogue on 1st June 2018*

**ONE** It stands for a free, open, inclusive region, which embraces us all in a common pursuit of progress and prosperity. It includes all nations in this geography as also others beyond who have a stake in it.

**TWO** Southeast Asia is at its centre. And, ASEAN has been and will be central to its future. That is the vision that will always guide India, as we seek to cooperate for an architecture for peace and security in this region.

**THREE** We believe that our common prosperity and security require us to evolve, through dialogue, a common rules-based order for the region. And, it must equally apply to all individually as well as to the global commons. Such an order must believe in sovereignty and territorial integrity, as well as equality of all nations, irrespective of size and strength. These rules and norms should be based on the consent of all, not on the power of the few. This must be based on faith in dialogue, and not dependence on force. It also means that when nations make international commitments, they must uphold them. This is the foundation of India's faith in multilateralism and regionalism; and, of our principled commitment to rule of law.

**FOUR** We should all have equal access as a right under international law to the use of common spaces on sea and in the air that would require freedom of navigation, unimpeded commerce and peaceful settlement of disputes in accordance with international law. When we all agree to live by that code, our sea lanes will be pathways to prosperity and corridors of peace. We will also be able to come together to prevent maritime crimes, preserve marine ecology, protect against disasters and prosper from blue economy.

**FIVE** This region, and all of us, have benefitted from globalisation. Indian food is among the best examples of these benefits! But, there is growing protectionism – in goods and in services. Solutions cannot be found behind walls of protection, but in embracing change. What we seek is a level playing field for all. India stands for open and stable international trade regime. We will also support rule-based, open, balanced and stable trade environment in the Indo-Pacific Region, which lifts up all nations on the tide of trade and investment. That is what we expect from Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. RCEP must be comprehensive, as the name suggests, and the principles declared. It must have a balance among trade, investment and services.

**SIX** Connectivity is vital. It does more than enhance trade and prosperity. It unites a region. India has been at the crossroads for centuries. We understand the benefits of connectivity. There are many connectivity initiatives in the region. If these have to succeed, we must not only build infrastructure, we must also build bridges of trust. And for that, these initiatives must be based on respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, consultation, good governance, transparency, viability and sustainability. They must empower nations, not place them under impossible debt burden. They must promote trade, not strategic competition. On these principles, we are prepared to work with everyone. India is doing its part, by itself and in partnership with others like Japan – in South Asia and Southeast Asia, in the Indian Ocean, Africa, West Asia and beyond. And, we are important stake-holders in New Development Bank and the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank



*At the 17th Shangri-la Dialogue organised by International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS)*

agreement which has been pending for seven years. This has been a very important message to investors and economic actors both in India and Singapore is also a strong foundation for a much higher level of economic engagement.

## International Launch of Indian Fintech Products in Singapore

We are also pleased about the outcomes in areas such as investment promotion, start-ups, FinTech, innovation, skills, artificial intelligence, data analytics and water capacity building, trading etc. What really stood out is the new initiative we have launched in the realm of innovation - FinTech. The Prime Minister launched three products from India for the first time on the international stage; all three products have had an international launch in Singapore. The first was India's of **RuPay Debit/Credit Card**. We also launched **Bharat Interface for Money (BHIM)**, which is a phone-based payment app which is going to be rolled out in Singapore also - this is also the first international launch of BHIM. The third product launched was the first cross-border remittance app, using the mobile phone-based digital payment platform, India's own **Unified Payment Interface (UPI)**, a nation-wide platform which provides for seamless multi-digital transactions. And this is the first time this phone app has been launched using UPI from Singapore. The UPI-based remittance app is efficient, convenient and cost-effective method of remittances, particularly for workers. It's also safe, because you just need to use a virtual account number and the UPI directs that into the bank account of the beneficiary.

We also set up a **Joint Working Group (JWG) on FinTech**, led by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS) and the Department of Financial Services (DFS), the Ministry of Finance, India. An agreement was also arrived at on between **NITI Aayog and Nanyang Technological University (NTU) for Research** and exchange partnership in the area



of artificial intelligence, machine learning, cognitive computing and big data analytics to improve healthcare, cybersecurity, automation, mobility, smart energy systems and e-governance.

What is also significant is that an agreement was also signed for Joint PH.Ds between the **Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Madras** and **NTU** in science, engineering, management, computing and social sciences. An MoU was also signed (in the presence of the Prime Minister) between the ISRO's **Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)** and an MoU between the **Indian Institute of Science (IISC)** and **NTU**.

But it's not just in terms of these outcomes, but also in terms of programming there has been great success. For example on **Day 1** the Prime Minister started with a tour of the exhibition on start-ups in Indian and Singapore. He was honoured and delighted to be joined on the tour by Singapore's **Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong**. The second edition of **IN-SPRENEUR** conclave— India-Singapore / ASEAN Entrepreneurship Bridge 2018



(Top): PM Modi arriving at NTU. (Above): PM Modi and Singapore Education Minister Ong Ke Yung (2nd from left) witnessing the MOU signed between NTU and IIT Madras, IIST and IISC

was a day-long affair. The focus of the theme related to emerging technologies such as converging of Artificial Intelligence and Blockchain and Data Analytics to provide better solutions.

The second package was related to FinTech and cyber security, and the third package was about the use of technology and innovation for social impact in areas such as education, health, agriculture, sanitation etc. These are areas which have a very big impact on ordinary life and we are trying to promote start-ups in innovations that work in this area - water for example. For example there was a young start-up from Singapore called **WaterRoom**, which makes portable water filters of very high quality. We have got them a pilot project in India to

supply these in some water-stressed areas. We then had a big business-cum-community event attended by 5,000 participants. The PM addressed this gathering also and shared with them the 10 transformations that are taking place in India and the opportunities that are out there for the Singapore-Indian partnership to capitalize on in what

would definitely be a very long, sustained growth and development in India. The event began with an outstanding presentation of yoga and a dance ballet.

And these were Singaporeans performing! The entire performance in terms of the performers, the choreography, the theme, the cinematography, the director...everything. It was titled **Anushasanam**. I think it again showed Singapore has world-class talent in Indian culture and the Indian performing arts - classical dance and music... they are second to none. The Prime Minister also had a very productive and constructive **Round Table Dinner** attended by 30 top CEOs from Singapore and they shared their thoughts, suggestions, ideas and plans for India as well as some policy rec-



*Anushasanam - The Cosmic Flow of Yoga - Specially commissioned dance-yoga performance composed and performed by Singapore's Apsaras Arts Dance Company and yoga instructors and practioners of Singapore*

ommendations. The Prime Minister's responded to each of them individually. It all goes to show how much importance he gives to such interactions and I think it could only have boosted the confidence of the Singaporean business community about the economic partnership.

The 1st of June was the Prime Minister's first official engagement which was held at Istana, where a number of agreements were concluded, followed by a very productive discussion and then a banquet. The Prime Minister then went to NTU where he also had an interactive session which was very well attended... about 1,800 people, including students, faculty and others. The focus again was on fostering greater co-operation in science and technology and higher education. That evening the PM addressed the **Shangri-La Dialogue** participants.

### Final Day

The final day had some very interesting programmes. The Prime Minister had a meeting with a man he much admires - **Emeritus Senior Minister (EMS) of the Republic of Singapore, Goh Chok Tong**. They have always had very candid discussions on both the India-Singapore partnership and what India should do at the global level. They then both jointly unveiled the memorial plaque at the Clifford Pier, a historic site dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, whose ashes, in part,

were immersed here in the sea. Not many people were aware of this event and the fact that his ashes had been kept for three days in the Victoria Concert Hall for people to pay homage, prior to the ritual immersion in a very moving ceremony attended by thousands of people according to media reports. We discovered all this from our archives at the High Commission. I was surprised to find how big that event was and we thought it would be a good idea to have a plaque placed at the site dedicated to that sacred episode in India-Singapore history and relationship.

Three objectives went out with this. To spread the message of Mahatma Gandhi's world view and mission, which remain timeless and universal, particularly during these turbulent times. The Mahatma's life was not just about independence and freedom of India, it was also about the liberation of men from injustice, about a quest for peace, for non-violence, dignity, equality and justice for people. It also shows our collective history and the strength of the people-to-people ties. In a sense to people of both India and Singapore it provides a reminder of the threat to the soul and spirit of Mahatma Gandhi. I was very deeply gratified by the kind of response we received when people learnt about this; it also received global attention. The PM tweeted that it had more than 1 million hits on Facebook. This again captured the link on a very solemn

occasion in which we had members of Singapore's inter-religious organisation and EMS Goh Chok Tong in attendance. We are very grateful to the Fullerton Bay Hotel for their very enthusiastic support and they have been a very good partner in making this possible. I must say I was also deeply touched by the quick acceptance by EMS Goh Chok Tong to join the Prime Minister in the plaque unveiling ceremony.

Post the unveiling ceremony the Prime Minister had a meeting with the US Defense Secretary from where he proceeded to the **Botanic Gardens** to attend the event in which an orchid was named after him. This was followed by visits to three religious sites - the **Chulia Mosque**, **Mariamman Temple** and the **Buddha Tooth Relic Temple**, which stand side by side. The reason for his doing this was to pay tribute to Singapore's religious diversity and the way it has nurtured the different faiths from different parts of Singapore... of the people who have come and settled here. One needs to celebrate its unique multi-cultural and multi-religious society, but at the same time also highlight once again centuries-old links between India and Singapore. The Chulia Mosque is not the largest in Singapore, but it is historic because it is the oldest mosque of the Tamil Muslims of India dating to the 1820s. The Mariamman Temple and Tooth Relic Temple



*The Dendrobium Narendra Modi named in honour of the Indian Prime Minister*

also date back to that period. These are three faiths which in a sense came to Singapore from India, even Islam largely through southern India.

The third element of our doing this was to actually reach out to and connect with the community in places rather than giving a speech at one big event. It was an excellent way to connect with the diaspora. The PM was touched and honoured to do this.

Our next stop was **Little India** and the **Indian Heritage Centre** where you can see what Singapore has done to preserve and nurture Indian heritage. It's a beautifully curated and developed heritage centre. But what is special about it is that, along with the support of a local Indian donor Mr Thakra, we have set up a permanent showcasing platform called **Kala Sangam**, where we will bring in Indian artists (2-3 at a time) for a month each, who will demonstrate their craft, make their handicrafts here and sell directly to people. This pilot project, which has been extremely successful, has increased footfall three times over in the centre. It is attracting not just Singaporeans but tourists as well. There are all kinds of crafting skills on display... handicrafts, calligraphy, paintings, textile printing. This is also a way to promote our legacy of handicrafts abroad. The artists will also have demonstrations of their skills



*(Top): PM Modi with ESM Goh Chok Tong (4th from l) with religious leaders at plaque commemorating scattering of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes offshore from Clifford Pier in 1948. (2nd & 3rd rows): Visits to the Mariamman Temple, Chulia mosque and the Tooth Relic Temple*

in schools and colleges here and this is the first time something like this is being outside India.

We then went on to visit the **Changi Naval Base**, which again addresses our defense ties, one of the important pillars of our contemporary partnership and strategic relationship with Singapore. We

visited a Singaporean naval ship where we were given an excellent briefing on our bilateral cooperation in this area this was followed by a visit of an Indian naval ship where we interacted with the officers and sailors. It was a unique moment that highlighted the strength of our partnership. Later the PM departed for the airport for his return to Delhi.

# Strategic Partners in the Truest Sense

**"India-Singapore relations fulfill the criterion of strategic partnership in the true sense. There is no uneasiness in our relationships, rather it has only warmth, harmony and faith."**

**- PM Narendra Modi**



***Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Singapore from 31st May to 2nd June 2018 unveils the commitment and intensity by which India-Singapore ties have been kept buoyant and forward looking through a series of well curated events, meetings and people-to-people interactions***



## DAY 1

*...in Pictures*



**"Prime Minister Lee and I just made a tour of an outstanding exhibition of technology, innovation and enterprise. These are the bright youth of India and Singapore. Many of them are brilliant talent from India that have made Singapore home. They will be the bridge of innovation and enterprise between India, Singapore and ASEAN."**

*- PM Narendra Modi*

31 MAY 2018  
MARINA BAY SANDS, SINGAPORE



"A great partnership of our times..."

- PM



## DAY 1

**The two lions will step into the future together.**

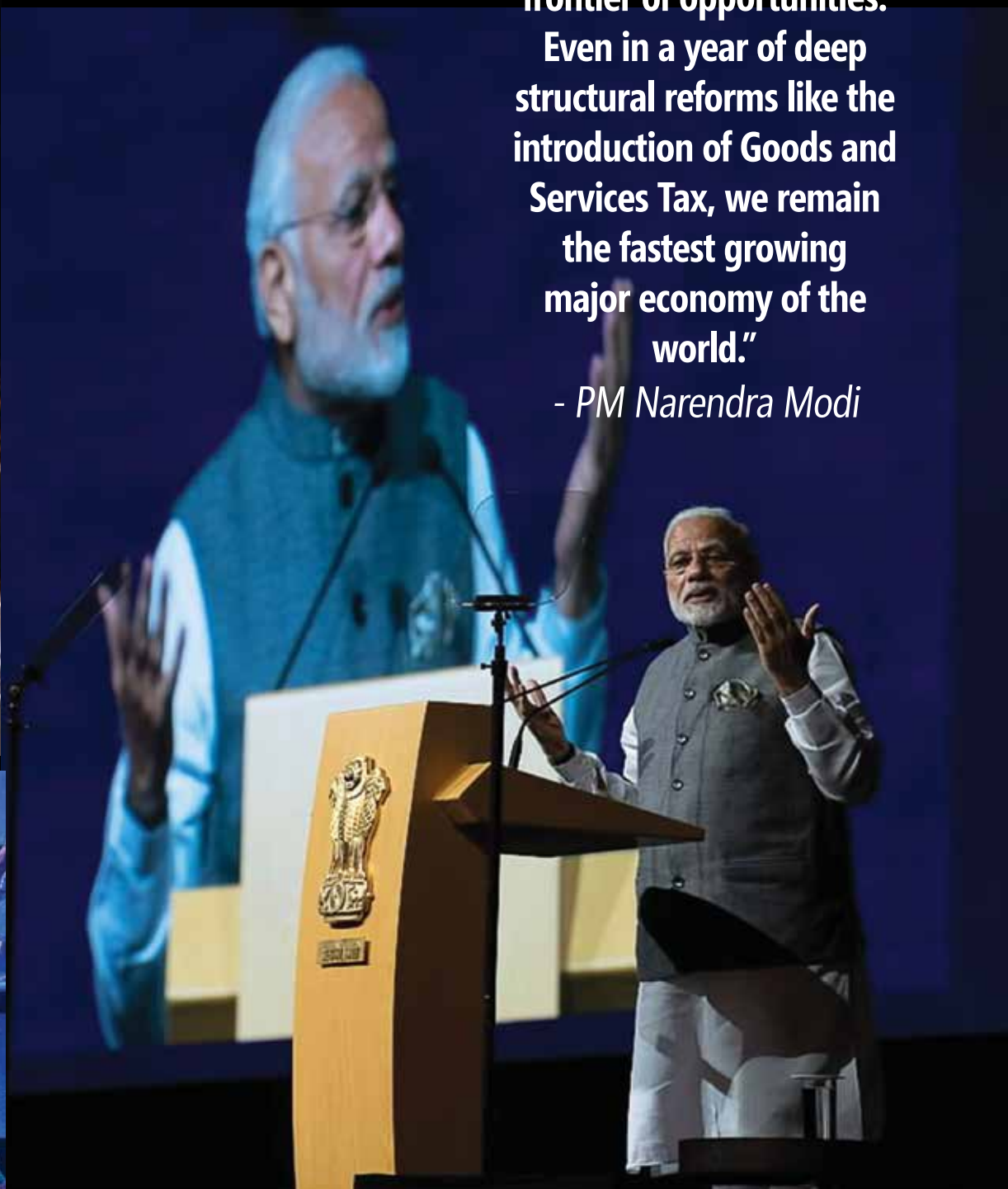
*Narendra Modi*

*...in Pictures*

**"As Singapore shapes a new future for itself, India emerges as the new global frontier of opportunities.**

**Even in a year of deep structural reforms like the introduction of Goods and Services Tax, we remain the fastest growing major economy of the world."**

*- PM Narendra Modi*





## DAY 2

*...in Pictures*



**"It is always a pleasure to return to Singapore. It is a city that never fails to inspire. Singapore may be a small island, but its horizons are global. This great nation has shown us that size is no barrier to the scale of achievements or the strength of a nation's voice in the world."**

*- PM Narendra Modi*







**"Mr. Prime Minister, under your leadership, India is undergoing a transformation through innovation. You are viewed by many in India as "Mr Tech". You have an astonishing 43 million followers on Facebook, another 42 million followers on Twitter, 892,000 followers on YouTube, and thousands more across other social media platforms, making you one of the world's most followed leaders. As Chief Minister of Gujarat, you drove the expansion of the Internet there, and since becoming Prime Minister, you have established the Digital India programme. Through engagement and partnerships with India, NTU researchers and students will have an opportunity to apply their cutting-edge research in a diverse society of 1.3 billion people.**

**NTU's new partnership with the National Institution for Transforming India (NITI Aayog) seeks to contribute to India's efforts to create smart cities.**

**We aim to bring artificial intelligence, machine learning, cognitive computing, digital humanities, social sciences, business, and big data analytics to improve healthcare, cybersecurity, automation, mobility, smart energy systems and e-governance."**

*- Professor Subra Suresh*

*President, Nanyang Technological University*



## DAY 2

*...in Pictures*



**"I see ASEAN as an example and inspiration. ASEAN represents the greatest level of diversity of culture, religion, language, governance and prosperity of any grouping in the world.**

**It was born when Southeast Asia was a frontline of global competition, a theatre of a brutal war and a region of uncertain nations. Yet, today, ASEAN has united ten countries behind a common purpose. ASEAN unity is essential for a stable future for this region.**



**And, each of us must support it, not weaken it. I have attended four East Asia Summits. I am convinced that ASEAN can integrate the broader region. In many ways, ASEAN is already leading the process. In doing so, it has laid the foundation of the Indo-Pacific Region. The East Asia Summit and the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership – two important initiatives of ASEAN – embrace this geography."**

**- PM Narendra Modi**



**“...I will have the honour to unveil a plaque at Clifford Pier to mark that solemn moment of our history. The moment which underlines even today the timeless and universal values of Mahatma Gandhi. Friends, on the foundations of this extraordinary heritage, the wealth of our human links and the strength of our shared values, India and Singapore are building a partnership of our age. It is a relationship that truly meets the test of strategic partnership.”**

**- PM Narendra Modi**

## DAY 3

*...in Pictures*



**"India Armed Forces, especially our Navy, are building partnerships in the Indo-Pacific region for peace and security, as well as humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. They train, exercise and conduct goodwill missions across the region. For example, with Singapore, we have the longest uninterrupted naval exercise, which is in its twenty fifth year now. We will start a new tri-lateral exercise with Singapore soon and we hope to extend it to other ASEAN countries."**

**- PM Narendra Modi**

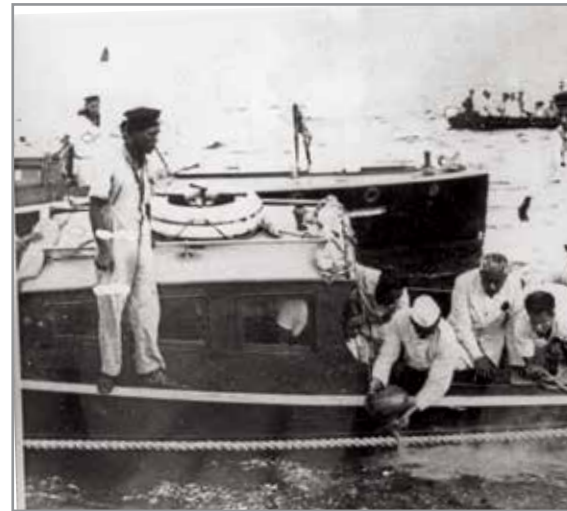


# India – Singapore Down Memory Lane

*A special celebration in images that captured the highpoints and national milestones that marked shared moments between India and Singapore*



*Netaji inspecting the Guard of Honour presented by the Rani of Jhansi Regiment on the occasion of the opening of the camp for the Regiment*



*Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed in the sea opposite the Connaught Drive, March 27 1948*



*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru in New Delhi, 1962.*



*In 1948, hundreds of Singaporeans lined both sides of Connaught Drive to pay their respects when Mahatma Gandhi ashes were immersed offshore*



*Prime Minister Indira Gandhi receiving a batik painting of a Thaipusam devotee from Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew*



*Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru addressing the gathering at the inauguration of the Boy's Home at the Ramakrishna Mission, Bartley Road, 1950*



*Prime Minister Indira Gandhi's public address, attended by noted leaders, officials and media among others, National Theatre, Singapore 1968*

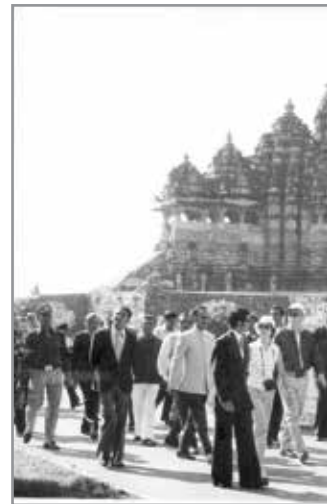
# INDIA AT 72



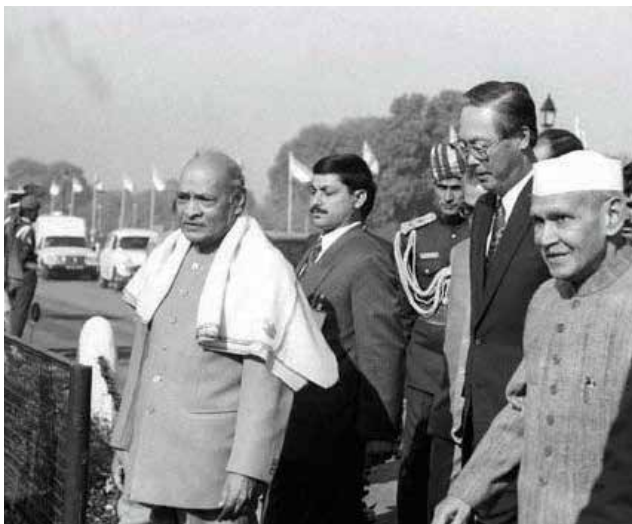
*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and Mrs Lee posing for a photo in front of the UNESCO World Heritage site of Taj Mahal, 1970*



*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and his delegation having a bilateral meeting with Prime Minister Morarji Desai, New Delhi, 1978*



*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and group of temples in Madhya Pra*



*Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, President Shankar Dayal Sharma and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong at the Republic Day celebration in New Delhi, 1994*



*Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee with Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew, 1998.*



*(Right): President of Singapore S R Nathan and Mrs Nathan's State Visit to India, 2003*



*Mrs Lee visiting the Khajuraho  
desh, 1978*



*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew being received at Chennai airport,  
1978.*



*Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew greeting External  
Affairs Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, New Delhi,  
1978*



*(Left): Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee, Prime Minister P  
V Narasimha Rao and Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong in New  
Delhi*



*President A P J Abdul Kalam presenting the Jawaharlal Nehru Award  
for International Understanding to Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong,  
New Delhi, 2004*



*Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong inspecting the Guard of Honour, Rashtrapati  
Bhavan, New Delhi*

# INDIA AT 72



Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh receiving Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi



External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Singapore's Foreign Affairs Minister Vivian Balakrishnan exchanging agreements at the Ministry of External Affairs Headquarters, New Delhi, 2015



Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong taking selfie with Prime Minister Modi at Komala Vilas restaurant, 2015



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the Indian community, Singapore, 2015



(Above): Dr Ng Eng Hen, Defence Minister of Singapore, sitting in the cockpit of a MiG-29 fighter jet at K. J. Somaiya Institute of Management Studies and Research, Mumbai, India in Nov 2017

(Left): Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and Prime Minister Narendra Modi on a five-day working trip 3-7



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President Dr Tony Tan Keng Yam in New Delhi, 2015



(Above): Prime Minister Narendra Modi presenting Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong an old map of Singapore drawn in India, Singapore, 2015



(Left): Prime Minister Narendra Modi being presented a photo album of Singapore visit before his departure from Singapore by Senior Minister of State for Defence Ong Ye Kung on 24 November 2015

(Left): Prime Minister Narendra Modi pays homage at the memorial of the Indian National Army, Singapore, 2015



Minister of Singapore, flying indigenously atalaikonda Air Station during his visit to



ASEAN - India Commemorative Summit in New Delhi, Jan 2018

g is with Prime Minister Narendra Oct 2017, New Delhi

## ON THE OCCASION OF INDIA'S 72nd INDEPENDENCE DAY



***The Singapore Manufacturing Federation  
wishes the people of India  
a Happy Independence Day!***

**S**ince Singapore achieved nationhood, India has enjoyed close relations with Singapore, being one of the first countries to recognise our independence. Bilateral ties between Singapore and India have grown from strength to strength along with excellent trade ties and today Singapore has grown to become one of India's top trading partners.

Singapore Manufacturing Federation (SMF) has always been working closely with our Indian counterparts. Through the signing of the Memorandum of Understandings (MOU) most recently during His Excellency Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit and proactively leading local companies on business mission trips to India, we are constantly exploring business opportunities and we are heartened to see many enterprises have gone on to invest and expand their businesses in India. SMF, as a leading business federation in Singapore, is committed to continue promoting business relations and economic cooperation with India's companies at all levels.

*We believe our relations will continue to advance in the coming years and wish India and her people good progress and prosperity!*

**Mr Douglas Foo**  
**President, Singapore Manufacturing Federation**



# Bollywood Classic in Broadway-Class Musical

*Mughal-e-Azam promises to be a stage musical extravaganza with stellar cast and top production values - a must-see*

**M**ughal-e-Azam, the 60s Bollywood movie classic actually started life as a stage play written by Imtiaz Ali 'Taj', in 1922, titled Anarkali. It was the inspiration for the movie - a timeless saga of a forbidden love story between courtesan Anarkali and prince Salim, which drove a prince to war against his own father, the renowned Emperor Akbar, and threatened an entire empire.

From the 24th to the 26th of August 2018, the story will be retold in a spectacular stage musical at the Esplanade Theatre. Mughal-e-Azam is in Hindi and Urdu, with English subtitles. With the grandeur of recent Cannes-fame celebrity fashion designer Manish Malhotra's breath-taking costumes, the technical precision of Broadway and an unparalleled love story, Mughal-E-Azam the play is set to bring five-decade old memories to life with an exhilarating flourish. As Indian cinema's magnum opus, Mughal-E-Azam the film took nine long years to create, and has been universally declared the greatest Bollywood film ever made. The play promises unforgettable choreography by Mayuri Upadhyaya, lighting and projection

design by Broadway fixture David Lander and Emmy-nominated John Narun, to bring a fresh new majesty to this stage version of the classic tale.

The most popular songs from the film such as "Pyar Kiya Toh Darna Kya" and the iconic qawwali "Teri Mehfil Mein" still cause a flutter in the hearts of the public, and are included in the play as live performances accompanied by enthralling dances.

This play has captivated audiences and critics alike, and is quickly becoming one of the biggest plays witnessed in India. In 2017, it has triumphantly garnered seven out of the 14 Broadway World India Awards including Best Play, Best Director and Best Costume Design. The musical has also run successfully sold-out shows in Dubai, London and New York.

For ticketing information visit: [www.apactix.com](http://www.apactix.com)

## PEAK PERFORMANCE



## ON THE OCCASION OF INDIA'S 72nd INDEPENDENCE DAY

*With Best Wishes from...*

**Life Insurance Corporation (Singapore) Pte Ltd**

3 Raffles Place #10-01 Bharat Building

Singapore 048617

TEL: (65) 6223 4797

Email: [sales@licsingapore.com](mailto:sales@licsingapore.com)



# Behind the Scenes



***With so much happening during the three-day visit by the Prime Minister of India, the Indian High Commission in Singapore was obviously the nerve centre of the entire planning and execution. Just how did the Indian High Commission cope? HE Jawed Asraf kicks off this set of 'behind the scenes' spotlights on specific aspects of the visit spanning the entertainment, venue and even the food served! He answers Shikhar's Chief Editor Nomita Dhar questions on...***

### **H**ow did you manage so much?

First is the visualization...of what is it that you want to do, both in terms of events and outcomes. There are four pillars of India-Singapore relations: One is the strategic, covering politics, defense and security. Then there's the economic pillar of investment, trade, skill development, infrastructure, smart cities, urban planning etc. The third pillar is of technology and innovation and the fourth pillar is of culture and people-to-people ties. We wanted the events we planned to capture and reflect these themes.

The second thing was to identify the outcomes in each of these areas which would advance our interests and the relationship. We needed to work simultaneously on curating this visit and yet ensure we were able to achieve the outcomes we were looking for, particularly on some pending issues and also to break new ground in areas like start-ups, innovations etc. Planning for all this started well in advance, of course.

The third aspect was the scale on which you plan to do it. I have always believed that the effort is often the same regardless the scale on which you organize events. We also wanted to do something that is world-class. Whatever we did required enormous, meticulous thinking and visualizing. It was about going over the minutest details, because no detail is too small to overlook or not give it the fullest attention.

It is also about pursuit of perfection. What was important in this was all this was possible also because Singapore itself is a crucible of great talent and resources and possibilities and opportunities. That is what gave us the energy and belief that we could do this.

But I also think it's very important at the outset to being sensitive to what is important for the relationship when we do this is on a large scale; what is important to the host government; and what is important to your own domestic audience. When a Prime Minister comes to a country it's not just about agreements and MoUs and government statements or bilateral meetings behind closed doors. That is no doubt very important, but there is something beyond that in terms of



**“When a Prime Minister comes to a country it’s not just about agreements and MoUs and government statements or bilateral meetings behind closed doors. That is no doubt very important, but there is something beyond that in terms of public messaging. So to align all these things, in terms of what is important for the relationship...for Singapore ...for India, is something you need to be acutely aware of during your planning.”**

public messaging. So to align all these things, in terms of what is important for the relationship...for Singapore ... for India, is something you need to be acutely aware of during your planning. Ideating is one thing, visualization is another thing and imagination is another part of all this when you are planning things on a very large scale. But none of this is of any use if you are unable to execute it. And, to be able to do so requires a great deal.

We are a very small mission and we’ve tried to use our resources to the best of our abilities. We also had the great support, good wishes and guidance from the wider community here in this endeavor in executing all those back-to-back events at the Marina Bay Sands Convention Centre and the other venues. We also had the support of De Ideaz, which is an event management company here and I must say this team of young Indians work very hard and over and beyond the contract. They believed in and were totally committed to what we were doing, and I think

that was very helpful in this entire process. Also the management at Fullerton which extended every help during the unveiling of the Mahatma Gandhi memorial plaque at Clifford Pier, the support of the committee members of the Indian Heritage Centre and the three religious sites. None of this would have been possible or executed so faultlessly and beautifully without the support of this extremely talented team here. It would have just remained on paper if not for them.

In terms of achieving the outcomes we got good support of different sections of the Singapore Government, especially the Prime Minister’s Office, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Trade and Industry < Ministry of Home and Monetary Authority of Singapore. Nanyang Technological University and its new President, Prof Subra Suresh deserve a special mention.

There are, as in any official visits, such as this, challenges with regard

to protocol, security, yet despite a few challenges dealing with local authorities here and there, everything went of very well. On our side, besides our Government agencies, CII and FICCI were very supportive.

It was also possible from the resources we were able to raise through sponsorships. Achieving all this was possible with the great support from our sponsors such as GIIS, Smart Group, GIC, SBF, SMF and SICCI.

### **How did you manage to serve a meal for those 5000 invitees at the reception banquet?**

It was a challenge no doubt. Remember it was during the period of Ramadan and we had to also plan for an Iftar (break fast) and prayers for Muslims.

You don’t know where everyone was seated to identify them so the solution we found was to put packets of snacks and a bottle of water on every seat. So some got a treat and others were able to break their fast.

# Apsaras Behind Riveting Dance-Drama Anushasanam

*Underpinning the agenda for the people-to people connections between India and Singapore was one of the most spectacular performances that marked the visit of PM Modi to Singapore. An all-Singaporean cast, brought to the stage the story of Yoga that was an exuberant showcase of the rich cultural ties between the two nations*

**A**nushasanam was a unique showcase of Indian classical dance and yoga, featured 9 Indian Classical (Bharatanatyam) dancers and 40 Yoga practitioners. The dance drama was inspired by selected texts from the Bhagavad Gita, the Yoga Sutras of Sage Patanjali and by the Lotus Sutra of Buddhism.

The performance received great accolades and the Prime Minister PM Modi personally congratulated the team, remarking that it was an "Amazing concept, deep in research and well executed. Bravo!" Amongst those in the 5000-strong audience were Singapore Minister S Iswaran, other key leaders and scores of enthusiastic culture buffs.

The showcase was arranged by Singapore's Apsaras Arts Dance Company, along with selected Yoga instructors and practitioners, also from Singapore, was set to a commissioned music score with choreographed dance and yoga asana sequences.

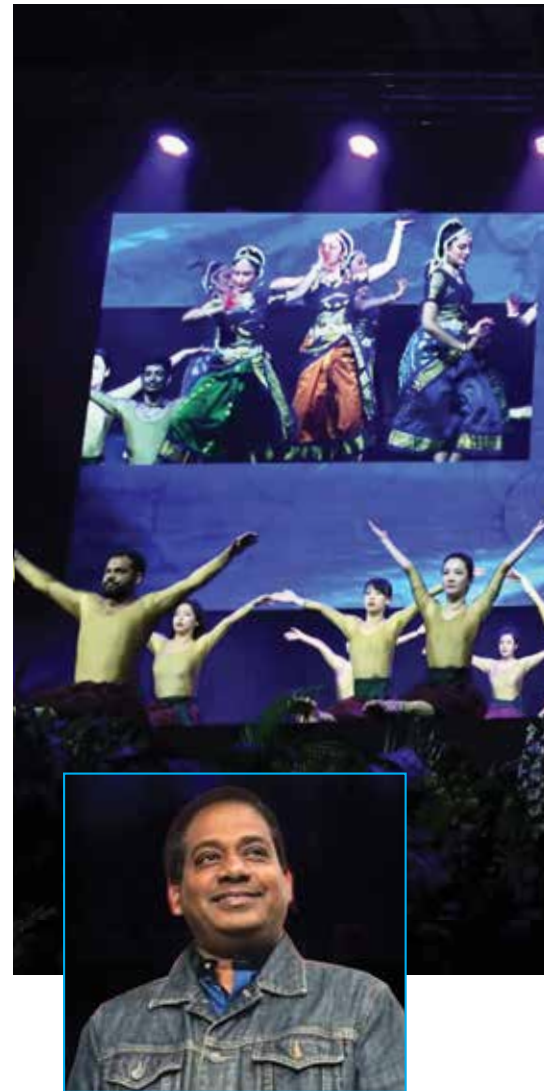
Apsaras Arts is led by Singapore's award winning artiste and artistic director Aravinth Kumarasamy (pictured here). According to Aravinth, "Anushasanam - The cosmic flow of yoga" is a dance and yoga performance depicting the benefits of the practice of Yoga in awakening the energies that lie in the seven chakras of the human body. Each chakra opening is symbolised with the blooming of a lotus flower with different number of

petals. The lotus with thousand petals represents the Sahasrara chakra at the crown of the head, which opens when a yogi attains mastery, wisdom and enlightenment. Similarly, the lotus plant draws goodness and nourishment from the murky waters to transform into a beautiful flower. The potential of the bloom lies hidden deep within the core of the plant before it unfolds at the crack of dawn with the morning Sun every day. While the blossoming of the thousand petal lotus in the Sahasrara chakra represents attainment of wisdom, the Sun represents the ultimate truth — the *brahman*. The journey of the lotus bloom is a perfect metaphor for the awakening of the human spirit with the assistance of the chakras."

### Music from India

Music for the extravaganza was composed by Dr Rajkumar Bharathi from Chennai, India and recorded in India performed by a team of talented musicians while the dance was choreographed in Singapore by Apsaras' resident choreographer Mohanapriyan Thavarajah who also designed the beautiful costumes; choreography of the Yoga Asana sequences was done in Singapore by Kavita Chandran, Diljyot Sandhu, Manoj Kumar, Maninder and Kuldeep K Kushwant.

The concept, script and artistic direction were handled by Aravinth Kumarasamy. He said Apsaras regularly takes part in international festivals across the globe,



and performs almost three to four times a year in India in major cities including Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Varanasi, Allahabad, Thanjavur, Trichi etc. Apsaras plans on taking 'Anushasanam' to India and other countries as well.

A professional dance company Apsaras Arts was founded in Singapore in 1977 by Singapore's pioneers in the arts -the late S. Sathyalingham and the late Neila Sathyalingham, both alumni of India's legendary Kalakshetra Foundation. The company is known for its repertoire of innovative dance productions, inspired by Indian and South East Asian themes.

Apsaras Arts is a non-profit registered as a charity organization, and is a recipient of the Singapore National Arts Council's Annual Major Grant scheme. The company is guided by an advisory board comprising eminent personalities connected with the arts community in Singapore and the region.

## STRATEGIC PARTNERS

**Apsaras regularly takes part in international festivals across the globe, and performs almost three to four times a year in India in major cities including Chennai, Delhi, Bangalore, Varanasi, Allahabad, Thanjavur, Trichi etc. Apsaras plans on taking 'Anushasanam' to India and other countries as well**



# Culinary Conundrums

By Sarab Kapoor



*While Prime Minister Modi's visit was action packed and outcome-driven India's High Commission in Singapore made certain even the smallest detail was attended to make it a success. This certainly included the cuisine. The High Commissioner's dinner banquet menu was a perfect combination of flavours that blended beautifully - just as the cultural ties between India and ASEAN have been over the centuries, and continue to be. In preparation of the visit, Singapore's home-grown celebrity chef, Sarab Kapoor, was invited to create a special menu with a brief to "give the guests a culinary tour around the region." Shikhar shares with you the recipes of two dishes that were served during the dinner*

**N**ever in my wildest dreams did I think that one day I would be cooking for the Indian Prime Minister. My first reaction when I was invited was an instant – yes! From that moment on, I started putting my mind on finding out his personal preferences in food.

I imagined that a public figure such as PM Modi would not have a minute to himself, so I aimed to make his meal in Singapore a short respite from his very demanding life. My hope was that the moment he put a mouthful of the food into his mouth, he could savour a quiet moment of simple enjoyment.

Of course, that was a little ambitious on my part, as there were about 40 others present at the dinner, a full agenda of issues to discuss, and very tight security. But I still like to think, if only in my dreams, that PM Modi enjoyed a few moments of simple pleasure from my food that was presented.

### Selection

I developed the menu based on my

knowledge that PM Modi is a vegetarian. It was suggested by His Excellency Mr Jawed Asraf that we give the guests a kind of culinary tour around the region – the tastes of the Spice Route, so I took traditional dishes and gave them a twist that would suit the guests. I also had to choose dishes that could be easily adapted to non-vegetarian versions to cater to those guests who prefer to eat meat.

For example, my starters of Gado Gado Indonesian Salad and Vietnamese-inspired Petite Polenta Cakes with Sweet Chilli Sauce took the tastebuds of the diners to Bali and Hanoi. My main of Thai Vegetarian Red Curry Royale whisked them away to Bangkok. My Baby Potatoes with Fiery Fresh Red Chilli Sambal took them to Malaysia, and my sweet finale of Pandan Panna-cotta with Gula Melaka Sauce and Singapore Special Rainbow Kueh returned them to Singapore with fond, familiar flavours of home.

### Preparation and Presentation

In the three weeks preceding the dinner, I spent many hours with the diligent

team of chefs at Marina Bay Sands, who were extremely patient and eager to satisfy my, at times, admittedly demanding requests. It took three food tastings to get the tastes, textures and colours just right.

The most challenging dish was the chilli sambal. As I always say, you eat first with your eyes, so I was emphatic that the chilli red colour had to be fresh and vibrant. On the day of the dinner, I arrived at Marina Bay Sands two hours before the dinner commenced. By that time, all the hard work had been done. I was there to simply oversee and be ready to intervene if the need arose. On the day itself, I made only minor changes to the plating, as everything had been planned like clockwork.

It was a great learning experience for me. My usual environment for cooking is small, intimate classes where I am in full control. On this occasion, I had to let go to a certain extent and put my trust in others. It was both humbling and educational. I feel very privileged to have been a small part of PM Modi's visit to Singapore.

## For Your Dining Pleasure

*Recipes from Sarab*

### Thai Red Curry Royale

500gms vegetables-straw mushrooms, long beans, baby corn, tofu, broccoli, bamboo shoots, eggplant, peppers  
 6tbsp red curry paste  
 500ml coconut milk  
 ½ cup tomato puree  
 ½ tbsp palm sugar  
 1 stalk lemon grass-smashed  
 1" galangal-smashed  
 3-4 kaffir lime leaves  
 2-3 baby eggplants  
 ½ cup holy basil

#### Method

- In a cooking pot add a few tablespoons of the coconut milk to the hot chili paste and fry adding half of the coconut milk gradually till all the coconut milk is absorbed in the paste.
- Add tomato puree, lemon grass, galangal, 2 lime leaves, baby eggplants and fry for a couple of minutes.
- Add the vegetables and 2-3 cups of water .
- Add salt, palm sugar, half of the basil leaves.
- Cook on medium fire till vegetables are done
- Serve hot garnished with the rest of the basil leaves and lime leaves strips



#### Red Curry Paste

15 Dry red chilies-Boiled till soft  
 150 gms Shallots  
 6 cloves Garlic  
 1" Galangal  
 3-4 stalks Lemon grass  
 5 Lime leaves  
 1tsp Coriander seeds  
 1tsp Cumin seeds  
 2-3 tbsp Oil

#### Method

- Dry Roast coriander seeds & cumin seeds till fragrant
- Grind the roasted seeds and all the ingredients except oil into a smooth paste without using any water.
- Heat oil and fry the paste for a few minutes till all moisture is evaporated.



### Vietnamese Inspired Petite Polenta Cakes

1cup polenta  
 1cup coconut milk  
 2 stalks lemon grass- bruised  
 3-4 kaffir lime leaves  
 1 fresh red chili- chopped  
 1 fresh green chilli- chopped  
 2 tbsp coriander leaves- chopped  
 1 tbsp butter  
 salt & oil if frying

#### Method

- Boil 3 cups of water along with lemongrass and lime leaves
- Simmer on medium flame for about 5- 8 minutes for the water to get flavored
- Add , coconut milk, both the chilies, butter and salt
- Discard the lemon grass and lime leaves
- Add polenta and coriander leaves and cook stirring continuously till the mixture comes together
- Pour it out on a greased tray and allow it to cool and set for about an hour
- Cut into neat squares. These squares can also be pan fried before serving
- Serve drizzled with some sweet chili sauce

# The Fullerton **Heritage**

*It is not often a hotel has a focal role to play in such an event but The Fullerton Hotels Singapore went out of its way to lend a hand at the historic Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Plaque Ceremony*



PM Modi with the proud General Manager of The Fullerton Heritage, Cavaliere Giovanni Viterale (left of the PM), and Fullerton staff who served with distinction

**Clifford Pier, an important waterfront landmark dating to colonial times, is today a part of The Fullerton Bay Hotel complex. It was a significant moment in history for The Fullerton Bay Hotel to play host to the commemorative event of Gandhi's passing**



All eyes were upon that historic moment, on June 2, 2018, when the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi along with Singapore's former Prime Minister, Goh Chok Tong, unveiled a Gandhi memorial plaque at Clifford Pier, where a part of Mahatma Gandhi's ashes were immersed in 1948. Yet not many people were aware of the role that the city-state's popular Fullerton Bay Hotel had played in the proceedings.

Clifford Pier, an important waterfront landmark dating to colonial times, is today a part of The Fullerton Bay Hotel complex. It was a significant moment in history for The Fullerton Bay Hotel to play host to the commemorative event of Gandhi's passing. The Fullerton team had multiple meetings with the Indian High Commission and the Singapore government representatives to coordinate many aspects of the event. Almost 300 people attended the ceremony and they enjoyed a rendition of Gandhiji's favourite 'Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye' and 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram' performed by Chinese instrumentalists and a group of Indian musicians from Singapore.

Cavaliere Giovanni Viterale, General Manager of The Fullerton Heritage, expressed his sentiments on the official visit of Prime Minister Modi, "It was a privilege and great honour to host Prime Minister Modi in The Fullerton Hotel – Singapore's 71st National Monument. Although the stay was brief, we hope he enjoyed the quintessential Fullerton hospitality and experienced a sense of place in our iconic building that is so alive with Singapore's history and heritage."

As revealed by Cavaliere Giovanni Viterale, the Indian chef from The Fullerton Hotel Singapore specially prepared a Gujarati meal for Prime Minister Modi as Gujarat was his place of origin. The Gujarati meal consisted of rotli, roti dal, rice and shaak/sabzi (a sweet and spicy dish made up of vegetables and spices). Ahead of the visit, the Fullerton culinary team also made preparations and planned an Indian menu for the rest of the delegates travelling with Prime Minister Modi.



*The Clifford Pier today is part of The Fullerton Bay Hotel's elegant event and dining venue*

# We Must Get to **Know India Better**

## - Dr T Chandroo

*Dr Thirumalai Chandroo, the Chairman of the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & industry (SICCI) shares how Singapore companies can leverage on the knowledge base and connections of the organisation that will be 95 years old this year*



**“The question that arises quite often is how can local SMEs succeed in India when they don’t have the in-depth expertise as compared to the bigger companies. And this where SICCI plays a crucial role...”**

**S**ICCI was established way back in 1924, Long before India and Singapore had gained independence. As the two countries celebrate their respective National and Independence Day in August, could you share with us about SICCI of today and how you have seen India - Singapore relations grow?

The Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry (SICCI) is one of Singapore’s most respected and active business chambers today.

It is a platform for enhancing interaction and information exchange for business promotion and development for its members. It is also a unified body representing the Indian business community, serving as a spokesman for the private and public sector organisations in Singapore. SICCI and its various divisions – SICCI-Trade Match, SME Centre@SICCI and SICCI-Institute of Business (IOB) – offer members and the wider corporate community a diverse range of services to meet their growing business through seminars, forums, training programmes, courses, advisory services and robust networking opportunities.

With a wide network, on-ground knowledge, and extensive experience, SICCI is well placed to help businesses seize opportunities both in Singapore and in the international arena. SICCI has an influential role to play in nurturing the next generation of entrepreneurs in Singapore.

On India, SICCI always encourages our members to explore new growth areas for their products and services, and seek new investment opportunities. By all accounts, India is a market brimming with potential. It is now the world’s fastest growing major economy. There are growing opportunities in India for Singapore companies to establish themselves. One example is the Smart Cities initiative which has opened doors in the energy, building, and logistics sectors. Singapore is seen as a smart nation that is very relevant to the aspirations of new India.

**There has been a phenomenal increase in the engagements between India and Singapore, in terms of trade, investment and people to people interaction. How has SICCI been part of this growth story?**

In recent years, there has been much focus on India. And for good reasons. A huge consumer market, a growing and affluent middle class, a young and vibrant population, investor confidence, smart city initiatives, e-commerce opportunities, economic reforms and of course a charismatic leader. It is the place to be for companies that want to grow their business exponentially.

Singapore has always been a close partner with India, historically and now more so economically. Singapore is one of India’s largest foreign direct investment sources while more than 8,000 Indian companies are present in Singapore. Temasek, Sembcorp, Singtel, Surbana Jurong are some of the Singapore entities that have a significant presence in India.

The question that arises quite often is how can local SMEs succeed in India when they don’t have the in-depth expertise as compared to the bigger companies. And this where SICCI plays a crucial role, in supporting our member companies through trade missions to various states in India, business collaborations, seminars, talks, trade matching and working very closely with the the Indian High Commission and the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII).

**Recently Prime Minister Modi concluded a successful visit to Singapore. As a business organisation what is your analysis of the visit? And how do you think it will further boost opportunities for the business community?**

Under PM Modi’s favourable and open policy environment, there are many significant investment opportunities in India for Singapore companies.

The MoU between Enterprise Singapore

(ESG) and The Indus Entrepreneurs (TIE) Singapore was signed one day before Prime Minister Narendra Modi's arrival in the Singapore. The MoU aims to foster collaboration between Singapore and Indian start-ups through jointly organised networking events, workshops and sessions with in-market mentors. India is an up-and-coming hotspot for global startups and businesses. The growth of India's startup landscape has been remarkable. His visit also saw the launch of the partnership between Singapore's NETS and India's RuPay digital payments systems.

### **How large is your membership base currently and how can you help new members to integrate into Singapore and ASEAN?**

We currently have 700 members. ASEAN is a fast-changing market with a healthy appetite for innovative solutions and is poised for strong growth, driven by increasing consumption by an emerging middle class. Singapore is the ASEAN Chair for 2018.

SICCI is looking at having more trade missions to emerging markets in ASEAN such as Vietnam, and Myanmar, more trade and business events through collaboration with other chambers and promoting business opportunities through member networking nights. There is huge potential for growth in trade and tourism, and digital connectivity through FinTech and e-payments.

### **Are you planning any business missions etc to India. What are the other activities being planned in the near future?**

We work closely with the Indian High Commission, the Confederation of

Indian Industries (CII) and the Singapore Business Federation. We are looking at collaborating with CII to see where they can help Singapore companies go to India and help Indian companies come to Singapore.

Personally, I would like to see more Singapore small and medium enterprises (SMEs) going to India.

### **From the time SICCI started till now**



*The Enterprise Singapore (ESG), Little India Shopkeepers & Heritage Association (LISHA) and the Singapore Indian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SICCI) have taken the initiative to establish an SME Centre office by Q4 2018 in Little India. Minister Iswaran (centre) witnessing the MOU signing between SICCI Chairman Dr T Chandroo (left) and LISHA Chairman Mr Rajkumar on 11 July 2018 at the Marina Mandarin.*

### **there are many other business and trade organisations that have emerged. How is SICCI keeping itself relevant to the need of the changing times?**

SICCI remains a valuable platform for members to network and strengthen their business ties. Through the Chamber, members can gain access to new markets and enhance their business development efforts.

Over the years, SICCI has become an important voice for the Indian business community locally and in the regional arena. We play a crucial role, especially in today's economic climate, in ensuring that our members have access to new business

opportunities, understand and benefit from government initiatives, and embrace new technology and productivity tools to increase their competitiveness.

### **You were recently elected the Chairman of SICCI. What are your plans to take the organisation to the next level in the changing climate of Disruptions, Startups, Artificial Intelligence and changing trade and business order?**

SICCI is signing a Memorandum of Understanding with A\*Star, to provide business matching, promote collaborative activities, and manpower upgrading through knowledge and skills transfer.

We are collaborating with Workforce Singapore to provide advisory and outreach to SMEs to address manpower issues.

SICCI is also starting an incubation programme called Accelerate@SICCI where 15 to 20 outstanding start-ups will be shortlisted at a strategic location near SICCI.

The programme is projected to last for a duration of six months with the aim of allowing these start-ups to hit the market and generate interest.

### **What opportunities do you see for Indian companies in Singapore and vice versa?**

Indian companies are attracted to Singapore because of ease of doing business, registering a company and opening a bank account. I think Indian companies will continue to find Singapore an ideal place to set up their regional base. If this ease in doing business can be replicated in India, I think there will be many more Singapore companies going there.



**Singapore Indian Chamber  
of Commerce & Industry**

ESTABLISHED 1924

## **Happy 53rd Birthday Singapore!**

9 August 2018

## **Happy Independence Day India!**

15 August 2018

*With Best Wishes from*

**SICCI Advisors,  
SICCI Chairman & Board of Directors,  
SICCI Members & Secretariat**

# PSA Starts Operation at India's Largest Container Terminal in Mumbai



**PSA's flagship investment in India, the Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals (BMCT) will be India's largest container terminal upon its full completion. The technologically-advanced terminal is a milestone in India's port infrastructure development and a crucial sea node that will facilitate the movement of global trade and commerce. Mr Wan Chee Foong, the PSA Regional CEO Middle East / South Asia and Head of Group Business Development, lays out PSA's plans for India**

## **Please brief us on your operations in India?**

PSA's container terminals are located in key consumption and cargo production centres across India – Navi Mumbai in the West, Tuticorin and Chennai in South India and Kolkata in East India. In 2017, we handled about 14% of India's total container port volume. PSA's consolidated capacity in India will reach about 8.0 million TEUs when our Bharat Mumbai Container Terminal (BMCT) Phase 2 is completed in 2022.

BMCT will also be India's largest container terminal with an annual capacity of 4.8 million TEUs. Located on the west coast of India, BMCT complements our existing operations on the eastern India seaboard, in Chennai, Tuticorin and Kolkata. The landmark project is also an important addition to PSA's current portfolio of ports across the world. (The key facilities are shown in the table on this page).

## **What are your expansion plans, if any?**

In India, we intend to play a key role in 'Sagarmala', India's port-focused development programme to enhance port capacity and connectivity,

reduce the cost of logistics and promote trade in the country.

In addition, we will continue to invest in the areas of cargo solutions, technology and innovation, operational capabilities, and most importantly, our people. Through our greater presence in India, we hope to facilitate maritime trade and bring about greater efficiencies in India's freight and logistics sector.

For the general community in India, we also seek to drive positive social change – through our Corporate Social Responsibility programmes – in every location where PSA has a presence, and play our role in supporting the rapid development of India's people, trade and economy.

**As a Singapore company, what do you think is the most important lesson you learned about doing business in India?**

BMCT KEY FACILITIES		
	Phase 1	Final
Design capacity (kTEU)	2,400	4,800
No. of container berths	3	6
Quay length (metre)	1,000	2,000
Terminal area (hectare)	90	200
Max. depth (metre)	16.5	16.5
Quay cranes (22 rows)	12	24
On-dock rail sidings (1.5 km tracks)	3	6



(Top row, from left to right)

- BMCT's berth with ultra-large ship quay cranes

- BMCT's rail siding (centre), berth & yard (top left)

- Aerial view of BMCT's berth & yard

(Second row, from right to left)

- Inauguration of BMCT by Prime Minister Modi in Feb 2018 (PSA Group CEO, Mr Tan Chong Meng on the extreme right)

- Ceremony to lay the foundation stone of BMCT by Prime Minister Modi in October 2015

We have learned to keep an open mind, embrace change and collaborate closely with the government and stakeholders for the common good.

**Give us details of your latest projects in India (cost, launch date, complexity/challenges (if any), current status and also an artist's impression of the upcoming development)**

India's trade and economy got a boost when Phase 1 of BMCT in Jawaharlal Nehru (JN) Port commenced operations on 2 February 2018. BMCT is India's largest foreign direct investment (FDI) port project under the public-private-partnership (PPP) tender model and will meet the trade's pent-up demand for mega capacity in India's premier port of call, by doubling its current capacity. This container terminal is of strategic national importance. It will be India's largest container terminal with an annual capacity of 4.8m TEUs; and with an estimated investment, as assessed by JNPT, of INR 79.15b (USD 1.24b) spread over eight years for two phases. Phase 2 is expected to be completed by 2022.

BMCT is also at the starting railway point of India's western Dedicated Freight Corridor (DFC) which connects the port to the National Capital Region (NCR). This will be the game changer for the country's rail cargo movement as double-

length and double-stacked trains of 360 TEU (4x the capacity of current trains of 90 TEU) can be handled at the terminal, and transit time between Mumbai and Delhi will be reduced from what is currently 3-4 days to 24 hours.

BMCT commenced construction in 2014 and completed the mega project construction on time as per concession milestones, a rarity for any infrastructure project in India especially for such a large-scale facility. The terminal was certified ready for operations on 21 December 2017. BMCT celebrated a historic milestone on 18 February 2018 as the terminal was officially opened by Prime Minister Modi.

**Can you briefly tell us about PSA international projects worldwide?**

As one of the leading global port groups, PSA participates in around 40 terminals in 16 countries across Asia, Europe and the Americas with flagship operations in PSA Singapore and PSA Antwerp. PSA strives to continue growing its port network alongside its shipping line customers and become the preferred partner to port stakeholders across the world. Employing the finest talents in the industry, PSA delivers reliable and best-in-class service to its customers and develops win-win relationships with its partners.

**PSA has been partnering India for a long time, what do you feel about the current potential of the Indian market for investment especially in your sector and the logistics involved?**

PSA has been an early participant of India's privatisation programme in the container terminal sector since 1998. As an early mover in India, we worked closely with the government to overcome challenges that come along the way in a developing market. India has developed significantly over the last 20 years since we started our operations there. Despite the challenges that the India port industry has faced over the years, we strongly believe in the country's potential, reinforced by its competitive economic engine and rapidly growing middle class.

More importantly, PSA sees a desire of the Indian leadership and society to make the country great: the 'Make in India' slogan in many ways, applies not just to manufacturing, but reflects a general quest for a more vibrant India.

Closer to heart, the port and logistics industry in India is and will continue to undergo structural shifts and disruptions. It is a challenging environment but we foresee strong collaboration amongst stakeholders in the industry with a common goal to improve technology, visibility and efficiency.

# Wellness Holidays: Healing Journeys in India

By Raneer Sahaney

*From the tranquil environs of the Himalayan foothills, the effervescent hotspots on the coastal belts, the romantic enclaves of Rajasthan to the gorgeous vistas of the Gangetic Plain... India's healthcare customs are a vibrant living tradition*

**H**olidays alone are, it appears, not good enough, to soothe frazzled nerves and rising stress levels in today's incredibly fraught world. Savvy marketers have been conjuring up a stream of glossy brochures extolling the value-added fun of signing up for a 'wellness holiday' which can even be customized for individual needs.

Little surprise then that India, long associated with holistic healing traditions, has become a huge draw for royals and celebrities, corporate Moghuls and common folk from home and abroad for sustenance and succor not just for the body but also for the soul. Summoned up from documented traditions related to health and well-being in India's ancient treatises the many treatments and therapies on offer do everything from addressing ailments, reignite drooping energies and sometimes, revive that much needed boost of *joie de vivre*—a delight in simply being alive.

Today one can travel to any part of India to discover local medical practices culled from India's fabled repository of the healing arts. The wisdom and knowledge of ancient disciplines such as Yoga, Meditation, Ayurveda, Naturopathy - India's primary alternative wellness systems which address many aspects of human distress, stress and

bodily ailments, are being woven into contemporary holiday packages at spa-destinations, hotels and dedicated wellness centres scattered across the length and breadth of the country.

## Stunning Locations

In the lap of the **Himalayan** expanses, up in the north, a wealth of state-of-the-art health and spa destinations offer wellness holidays in stunning locations. Integral to a vacation here are the healing powers of the confluence of ancient streams of Ayurveda, Yoga and Meditation. Down south, **Kerala**, continues to be a major player in the wellness arena, celebrated as much for its holistic healing treasures as for its natural beauty and spiritual heritage.

From its iconic backwaters to its stunning plantations and beautiful game parks, the state offers a heady range of thrilling experiences which chase away the blues. Ayurveda treatments and yoga courses are being customised for individual needs - an epic reason for their efficacy. From Rishikesh to Kovalam, from Jaipur to Delhi, visitors can book into a luxury spa, an Ayurvedic retreat, or even a

Naturopathy and Holistic Healing retreat. For the unfussy the pared-down austere meditation regimen at the Yoga ashrams and retreats scattered across the country is an excellent option.

## Yoga Capital of the World

In **Uttarakhand's** Himalayan foothills **Rishikesh** is an ancient hub of spiritualism, and for long a home for sages and wise men who practiced their philosophies and followed the traditions of healing, meditation, healthy living and eating. This is the Yoga capital of the world and has several well-established yoga schools and ashrams on the banks of the **River Ganga**. It has a plethora of ashrams and temples where such disciplines are practiced and many enlightened teachers and gurus live and share their wisdom.

Most Yoga centres here are residential and you can enroll for time-bound courses. The regimen here is simple and austere and life is disciplined

*Healing vibes - the Atmantan Resort Spa is nestled on a unique crystal hill in the picturesque lakeside retreat of Mulshi, Maharashtra state (Photo: [www.atmantan.com](http://www.atmantan.com))*



and regulated. The food is vegetarian and of the satvic (pure) variety – no smoking and alcohol is allowed on the premises. Many ashrams in Rishikesh offer courses on meditation and Hindu philosophy. Hatha yoga and pranayama meditation classes are pursued at the **Sri Ved Niketan Ashram** while the **Shivananda Ashram**

is a huge favourite and needs to be booked in advance. Transcendental Meditation practiced here is another form of meditation popularised by Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, the guru of The Beatles in the 60s.

**Parmarth Niketan**, along with Uttarkhand Tourism, organizes the International Yoga Festival in Rishikesh in February/March. Burgeoning devotees arrive from home and abroad to attend this hugely popular event each year. It is basically a Yoga Camp, where people are taught various forms of yoga such as Hatha Yoga, Raj Yoga, Karm Yoga and Bhakti Yoga. The hilly terrain around Rishikesh is perfect for treks, bird watching and paragliding—and its rivers popular for regulated white water rafting and water sports in designated places.

Today the state's many hillside destinations are burgeoning with yoga ashrams, Ayurvedic spas, wellness and meditation centres. Up from Rishikesh, ensconced in the erstwhile **Maharaja of Tehri's Palace** complex, in **Narendranagar** lies the ever popular **Ananda in the Himalayas**, a spa destination with panoramic views, which draws the well-heeled and health-inclined for its Ayurveda indulgences, yoga and meditation. Feted internationally for its superb Ayurvedic practices the spa has a host of wellness

packages to choose from—Detox Starter, Detox, Yogic Detox, Dhyana Self Realisation, Ayurvedic Rejuvenation, Weight Management, Renew, Yoga, Stress Management and Active, which can range from 4 to 21 days. The retreat also offers soft adventure activities in the outdoors such as treks in the hills

## Kerala, continues to be a major player in the wellness arena, celebrated as much for its holistic healing treasures as for its natural beauty and spiritual heritage



and if asked specially customised rafting sessions on the Ganga, where you can even hangout to witness the atmospheric evening aarti. A nice little quirk at the resort is that at each evening at sundown a bagpiper marches from the palace to **Sunset Point**.

Close to the hill resort of **Nainital** is **Kausani**, Gandhiji's favourite place in the Himalayas and home to the **Anasakti Ashram**. Views of the **Nanda Devi Range** are spectacular, the air clean and

sweet and the environs tranquil.

### Meditation Retreats

State capital **Dehra Dun** offers the seriously-dedicated **Vana Retreat** whose mission is to "evoke wellbeing, be coherent with nature, respect ecology, endure and refrain from indulgence."

Vana offers treatments in their most traditional and authentic form. These are often customised to achieve an individual's needs but only with a doctor's consent and without compromising the tradition. Treatments, consultation and private sessions are booked only after your arrival. Wellness consultation at Vana cannot be booked in advance.

One of the most ancient (and highly disciplined and austere) methods of meditation is a Vipassana Meditation, practiced by people all over India.

**Dehradun Vipassana Centre** is one such centre that trains people in this special technique. Close to **Mumbai**, in **Igatpuri** one can book in at the **Vipassana** residential retreat, which has been attracting streams of devotees from home and abroad over the years. In the romantic city of **Udaipur**, with its iconic water palace, the **Leela Palace Hotel**, Udaipur features

India's only tented luxury spa, set amidst expansive gardens with views of **Lake Pichola**. Experiences at its **ESPA Spa** span the arena of physical and spiritual rejuvenation through its complement of treatments and massages et al. They even offer treatments designed to relax the physique and tone the skin of pregnant and nursing mothers. Guided tours are arranged around Udaipur and its surrounds, which include the **Eklinji Temple** and **Nathdwara Temple**. In the picturesque lakeside retreat of **Mulshi**, in **Maharashtra** state,

## TRAVEL

**The spa offers  
Ayurvedic and  
western massages,  
acupressure,  
aromatherapy,  
anti-ageing facials,  
purifying body  
polishes and wraps,  
Balneotherapy,  
and Pranic healing.  
You might feel like  
indulging in its  
authentic Turkish  
hamam**

is the lovely **Atmantan Resort Spa**, a splendiferous dedicated wellness destination that's perfect for a Detox, fitness and pampering spa holiday. Nestled on a unique crystal hill, (that lends the land healing frequencies), in the Sahyadri mountain range with views of the gorgeous Mulshi Lake. Accessible from both Mumbai and Pune the spa offers Ayurvedic and western massages, acupressure, aromatherapy, anti-ageing facials, purifying body polishes and wraps, Balneotherapy, and Pranic healing. You might feel like indulging in its authentic Turkish hamam or the Vichy shower room. It even features a couple's own spa room and a UV light treatment chamber.

### Ayurvedic Resorts

Heading down to the coastal hub of **Kovalam** – a picturesque tropical beach close to Kerala's state capital **Thiruvananthapuram**, set your sights on a treasured experience at one of the Ayurvedic Resorts here. A popular one is the 3-star beach retreat, the **Somatheeram Ayurvedic Resort**, 9k away at **Chowara Beach** and offers a range of traditional



Beautiful view from the Somatheeram Ayurvedic Resort (Photo: somatheeram.org)

## Happy Independence Day to India from NPS International School



10 Years of Commitment to Holistic Education



### NPS International School

10 and 12 Chai Chee Lane  
Singapore 469021

Tel: +65-62942400 Fax: +65-64482089

Email: [register@npsinternational.edu.sg](mailto:register@npsinternational.edu.sg)

<http://npsinternational.edu.sg> 2018



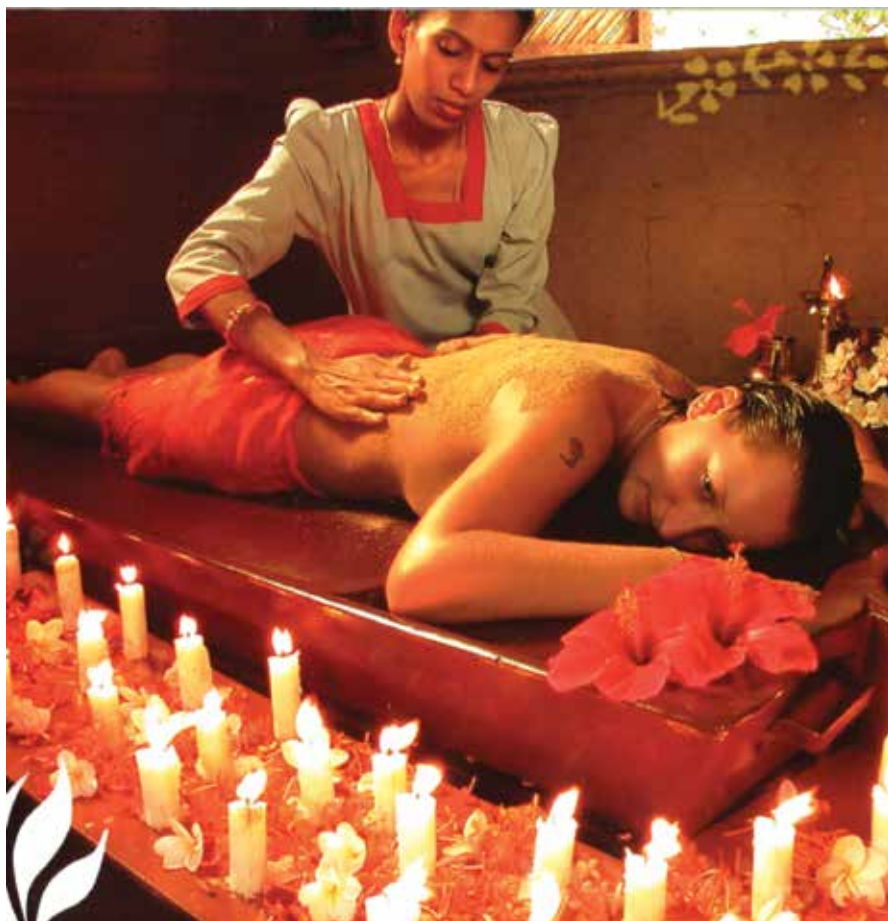
Cambridge Assessment  
International Education

Cambridge International School



Ayurvedic treatments, massages, yoga and meditation. It also arranges the legendary Kerala backwater tours on request. You can even take in a half day sightseeing tour visiting hotspots around Thiruvananthapuram such as the **Sri Padmanabha Swami Temple, Padmanabhapuram Palace, Science and Technology Museum, Shanghumugham Beach, Tropical Botanical Garden and Bay Watch.**

For those who want to pack in some more thrills, even on a wellness holiday, you can take off for **Kalari** – the traditional Kerala health and body care center. Kalari as you know is a traditional martial art form originating in Kerala. What's interesting is that Kalari fighters are given a special marma therapy called Kalari massage for flexibility and dexterity. If you have organised a longish sojourn here you can drive down to the southernmost tip of the Indian peninsula to **Kanya Kumari (Cape Comorin)** famed for the spectacular sunsets over the waters at the confluence of the Arabian Sea, Bay of Bengal and the Indian Ocean. You can be back at the resort by nightfall.



For more information on travel to India visit: [www.incredibleindia.org](http://www.incredibleindia.org)



64 Cecil Street #04 / #05 IOB Building Singapore 049711  
Tel: 6347 6100 Fax: 6224 4174 / 6225 7743  
Email: [insure@iii.com.sg](mailto:insure@iii.com.sg) Web: [www.iii.com.sg](http://www.iii.com.sg)

**A LEADING GENERAL INSURER IN SINGAPORE SINCE 1987**



**Motor**  
**Personal Accident**  
**Industrial Insurance**  
**Workmen's Compensation**  
**Liability Insurance**  
**Marine Hull, Oil & Energy Insurance**  
**Marine Cargo Insurance**  
**Property Insurance**



REST ASSURED WITH OUR  
INDIVIDUAL & CORPORATE NON-LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES

**S&P RATING: 'A-' with 'Stable' Outlook**

# Yoga for Everyone, Everywhere

*This year's 4th International Day of Yoga in Singapore was decentralised so more organisations and individuals can participate*



**This year achieved a record number of 110 centres and 183 sessions among 30 partner organisations throughout the island. There was a diverse range of centres from schools, universities, community clubs, sports centres, elderly home care, home for people with special disabilities and mental health, temples, yoga centres to tourist centres.**



(Top): A more memorable IDY 2018 gathering thanks to the beautiful iconic location at Marina Bay.  
(Above): Leading by example High Commissioner HE Jawed Ashraf at inaugural session

**Y**oga was brought closer to people where they live, play and work so that it can become a regular habit. The High Commission of India organised the International Day of Yoga (IDY) 2018 for a full week from 16 to 24 June 2018 at various centres across the city.

This year achieved a record number of 110 centres and 183 sessions among 30 partner organisations throughout the island. There was a diverse range of centres from schools, universities, community clubs, sports centres, elderly

home care, home for people with special disabilities and mental health, temples, yoga Centres to tourist centres.

More than 7000 people from all walks of life participated enthusiastically and according to the Indian High Commission, "We worked with about 30 yoga and wellness organisations to conduct yoga sessions across the city. Singapore government organisations such as Peoples' Association, ActiveSG and SportSG, participated for the first time in the IDY event. These

organisations have a wide reach across the entire city and are major draw for propagating sporty and healthy lifestyle."

## Yoga Centres Participating

Singapore yoga centres such as Art of Living, Isha Foundation, Vyasa Yoga, Sahaja Yoga and Jal Yoga have all joined with the High Commission to make the 4th IDY a success here. The High Commission spokesperson also said that, "We involved several local associations such as Narpani (a grassroots organisation of Tamil community) and LISHA (Little India Shoppers and Heritage Association), Sun Love and Swami Home, Sree Narayana Mission, Ramakrishna Mission, Hindu Endowment Board and Indian Heritage Centre. We also incorporated several community clubs in our list of yoga centres so that it reaches maximum number of people.

The yoga sessions started with the playing of a message of greetings from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to yoga lovers all over the world. The Prime Minister explained Yoga's role in achieving 'oneness among mind, body and intellect'. He also emphasized that Yoga is not just a set of exercises, but also a passport to health assurance.

The High Commissioner himself addressed several such sessions where he explained the three reasons for Prime Minister's call for IDY, namely, healthy life, sustainable planet and peaceful world. He also explained the benefits of yoga for both body and mind and the benefits of making it a part of daily life.

High Commissioner Jawed Ashraf paid tribute to Singapore for the huge turnout and the manner in which Singapore has embraced yoga. He said that instead of doing one large event, "We wanted to bring yoga closer to the people by holding it in their local community center, sports center, schools, colleges, housing complexes, hospitals, local parks, etc."

A guided Yoga session based on 'Common Yoga Protocol' created by Ministry of Ayu-h, Government of India was conducted with the help of Yoga demonstrators. The Yoga session concluded with Sanskrit Shlokas and Shantipath. All the IDY sessions were free and open to the public.



(Top): Yoga under the Gardens by the Bay Super Trees. (Above): Singapore Minister of Culture, Community & Youth Ms Grace Fu (seated centre) joins in a session at the Yuhua Community Club



## Traditional Indian Medicines

To further give impetus to India's ancient knowledge of traditional medicines like Ayurveda and Siddha, the Indian High Commission here also support Ayurveda Practitioners Association of Singapore (APAS) and Siddha Practitioners Association of Singapore (SPAS) in organising the fourth conference on Traditional Indian Medicine in Singapore. It was a daylong session with panel discussions highlighting the several benefits of traditional medicines. The conference was held on 21st June 2018 at the Hotel Grand Copthorne Waterfront.

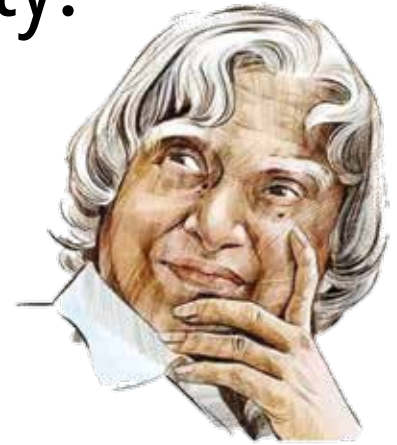
For more information, you can visit:

**APAS** - <http://www.ayurvedicpractitioners.org/>

**SPAS** - <http://siddhapas.org>

# Abdul Kalam Vision Society: Igniting Minds

*The vision of former Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam was brought alive through the formation of the Abdul Kalam Vision Society in Singapore recently. Commemorating this was a star-studded event where the India's High Commissioner in Singapore HE Jawed Ashraf and other luminaries spoke of ways to carry on his legacy*



**F**irst have a vision, and then work to actualize it. This was the maxim by which former Indian President Dr APJ Abdul Kalam led his life. Aiming to make the vision and values he held good a reality, the Abdul Kalam Vision Society (AKVS) was formed and officially launched on July 21 in Singapore. Presided over by the Indian High Commissioner, HE Jawed Ashraf, as the chief guest, it was attended by close to 400 people, including the late president's scientific adviser Dr V Ponraj.

The High Commissioner lauded the achievements of the former President and drew attention to the interest he took in nurturing youth. He added that the ideas and the scientific temper that Kalam espoused were not limited to national boundaries but had international relevance for Dr Kalam underscored the importance of knowledge and of a rational, scientific temper.

He went on to commend the Indian community in Singapore for their efforts to set up this society and suggested some activities that could be carried out to achieve their objectives such as organising knowledge-based events, including annual distinguished lectures and essay competitions for school students here.

Dr Ponraj explained how Dr Kalam always looked to the future. He said the former president interacted with close to 25 million students from across the globe and was a "borderless scientist". "He (Dr Kalam) gave sustainable solutions to many of the world's

problems in areas such as healthcare, environment, agriculture, energy, water and infrastructure", Dr Ponraj recalled, and he hoped that the AKVS would play a vital part in making the vision of the former president a reality.

Singapore's former Indian-origin diplomat Mr K Kesavapany highlighted many of the values that Dr Kalam espoused, such as meritocracy, religious harmony, tackling income inequality, science for the benefit of society and inspiring youth. These values are in line with those of Singapore's, he said, "Dr Kalam's inspirational life was a great lesson. He was not only the leader of India. He was a world leader, there is much for Singaporeans to learn from his teachings, values and life. And that would be the objective of this organisation", said Kesavapany, who is also the AKVS president.

## Be Inspired!

*"Never stop fighting until you arrive at your destined place - that is, the unique you. Have an aim in life, continuously acquire knowledge, work hard, and have perseverance to realise the great life."*

*"If a country is to be corruption free and become a nation of beautiful minds, I strongly feel there are three key societal members who can make a difference. They are the father, the mother and the teacher."*

*"If four things are followed - having a great aim, acquiring knowledge, hard work, and perseverance - then anything can be achieved."*

*"If you want to shine like a sun, first burn like a sun."*

- A P J. Abdul Kalam

## Missile Man and People's President

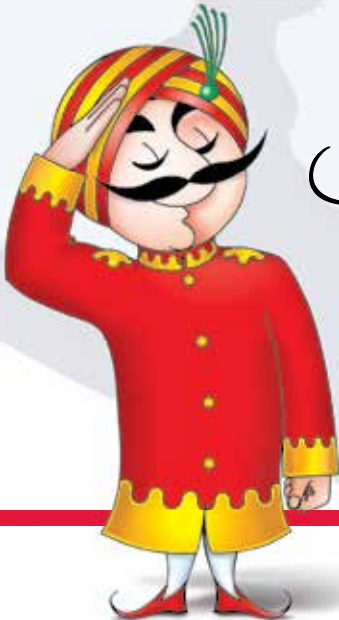
Born in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu, Dr Kalam grew up from a humble background to become an eminent space scientist. His scientific career began when he studied physics and aerospace engineering, spending the next four decades as a scientist and science administrator, mainly at India's Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO).

Closely involved in India's space programme and missile development efforts, he came to be known as the Missile Man of India for his work on the development of ballistic missile and launch vehicle technology. He also played a pivotal organisational, technical, and political role in India's Pokhran-II nuclear tests in 1998, the first since the original nuclear test by India in 1974. Kalam was elected as the 11th President of India in 2002 and occupied India's highest office till 2007. Widely referred to as the "People's President", he returned to his civilian life of education, writing and public service after a single term. He was a recipient of several prestigious awards, including the Bharat Ratna, India's highest civilian honour. While delivering a lecture at the Indian Institute of Management Shillong, Kalam collapsed and died from an apparent cardiac arrest on 27 July 2015, aged 83. July 27 this year, marks the third anniversary of his passing.



With world under our wings,  
and India in our hearts, we wish you a

*Happy  
Independence Day.*



visit [www.airindia.in](http://www.airindia.in) Stay connected [f /airindia](https://www.facebook.com/airindia) [@airindiain](https://www.twitter.com/airindiain)



A STAR ALLIANCE MEMBER 

Address: 3 Coleman Street #03-07/08 Peninsula Shopping Centre Singapore 179804

Contact us at [Reservation@airindia.com.sg](mailto:Reservation@airindia.com.sg) | [Sales@airindia.com.sg](mailto:Sales@airindia.com.sg)



The Global Citizen Forum spearheaded by its Founder Dr BK Modi, wishes all Global Indians in Singapore a very Happy Independence Day. As the two peacekeepers of Asia, let us work to herald a new era of Global Harmony.

The Global Citizen Forum envisions 'creating One World' a world where barriers of religion are overcome by the Omniscient individual who seeks the knowledge of everything, barriers of nationality are overcome by technology and barriers of gender break before the ultimate objective of creating a values based, sustainable world community.



Global  
Citizen  
Forum



globalcitizenforum



@GCFfm1 | www.gcfnetwork.org

For queries email: admin@gcfnetwork.org

