



ASEAN-India: Towards Comprehensive Strategic Partnership

India hosted a special India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' meeting in New Delhi in mid-June, 2022. This meet was seen as a step forward towards a comprehensive strategic partnership between India and ASEAN. This year marks the 30th anniversary of dialogue relations between the two. Both sides reaffirmed that openness, inclusiveness, rules-based order, freedom of navigation and peaceful settlement of disputes should be at the very core of the Indo-Pacific. Energy, food security, post-pandemic recovery, water security, blue economy, education, capacity building and trade were some of the major issues discussed during the meet. Therefore in this edition of CUTS ONW, articles of significant importance about the meet are highlighted.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India-ASEAN: Moving towards comprehensive strategic partnership <i>Dipanjan Roy Chaudhury</i> The Economic Times June 21, 2022</p>	<p>A relationship that started in early 1990s, with the inception of new global realities, now has turned into a robust, strategic partnership. In the sideline of the Special India-ASEAN Foreign Ministers Meeting in Delhi on 15 June, the Minister of External Affairs (MEA) in collaboration with the India-ASEAN Centre (AIC) at Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS) organised the 12th Delhi Dialogue (DD XII).</p>
<p>India-ASEAN ties a morale-booster for region The Tribune June 21, 2022</p>	<p>This meeting was significant in dealing with the current global crisis and how India-ASEAN together should act in their mutual interest. The meeting was an important confidence-building mechanism for the region. Whenever one thought of the pharmacy of the region or the impact of digital connectivity and the big provider of agricultural products, thoughts turned to India. Keeping India engaged was important for the region.</p>
<p>Can India help ASEAN escape superpower rivalry? <i>Mohamed Zeeshan</i> The Diplomat June 19, 2022</p>	<p>Economically, ASEAN is in a tight spot. Owing to trade links built over the last few decades, heavily dependent on China. The ASEAN hopes that India will help maintain the regional balance of power and slowly wean the group off its trade dependence on China. On its part, New Delhi also sees Beijing as a threat and would like to steer clear of the superpower rivalry between China and the West.</p>
<p>India-Asean foreign ministers discuss impact of Ukraine crisis <i>Rezaul H Laskar</i> Hindustan Times June 17, 2022</p>	<p>This was the first time India hosted a special meeting with foreign ministers of ASEAN. The meeting was co-chaired by external affairs minister S Jaishankar and his Singaporean counterpart Vivian Balakrishnan. The foreign ministers of India and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations discussed ways to respond to the impact of the Ukraine crisis on the regional economy and security and agreed to enhance cooperation in key areas such as trade, connectivity, defence and cyber security.</p>

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<p>India, ASEAN push for effective connectivity links, early review of trade deals <i>Nivedita Mukherjee</i> Swarajaya June 17, 2022</p>	<p>India has called upon Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) to realise the untapped potential of their partnership. The partnership can be strengthened by aligning initiatives to the Master Plan for ASEAN Connectivity, expanding data, digitisation and technology linkages, and collaborating for building reliable and resilient supply chains (Paywall) as New Delhi looks to making a stronger contribution to the evolution of the Indo-Pacific.</p>
<p>India-ASEAN conclave: foreign ministers agree on unified response to global issues The Indian Express June 17, 2022</p>	<p>S. Jaishankar said that India fully supports a strong, unified and prosperous ASEAN with a central role in the Indo-Pacific and both sides should identify a new set of priorities while navigating the “arduous path” arising from developments in Ukraine. Singapore’s Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan criticised Russia for its invasion of Ukraine.</p>
<p>India, Asean foreign ministers set out path for coming decade United News of India June 16, 2022</p>	<p>Foreign Ministers of India and the 10-member ASEAN on June 16, 2022 reviewed the status of the partnership and set out the path for the coming decade, while focusing their talks on Covid-19 and health, trade and commerce, connectivity-physical and digital, education, capacity building and the Indo-Pacific.</p>
<p>India-ASEAN foreign ministers mark 30-Year 'Fruitful' partnership; Myanmar kept out <i>Seema Guha</i> Outlook June 16, 2022</p>	<p>India kickstarted a two-day meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers on June 16, 2022 to celebrate thirty years of India-ASEAN ties and ten years of the strategic partnership with this important regional group of South-East Asian nations.</p>
<p>India-ASEAN can promote resilient, reliable supply chains: Jaishankar Business Line June 16, 2022</p>	<p>Minister of External Affairs S Jaishankar has said India and the ten-member ASEAN can work together to promote decentralised globalisation and resilient and reliable supply chains, (Paywall) the world is increasingly looking for.</p>
<p>ASEAN meet discusses remarks on the Prophet <i>Kallol Bhattacharjee</i> The Hindu June 16, 2022</p>	<p>Foreign Minister of Singapore Vivian Balakrishnan said the controversy over the derogatory comments about the Prophet of Islam was discussed "informally" during the 24th India-ASEAN ministerial meeting. ASEAN has Indonesia, the largest Muslim majority country in the world, as its member. He added that treat each other with respect, we can live and let live.</p>

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