



**India-ASEAN
Youth Summit**
14th to 19th August 2017
Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh



India-ASEAN Youth Summit Bhopal Declaration

We, the young people of The Republic of India and Association of Southeast Asian Nations (hereinafter referred to as ASEAN), namely Brunei Darussalam, the Kingdom of Cambodia, the Republic of Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Republic of the Union of Myanmar, the Republic of the Philippines, the Republic of Singapore, the Kingdom of Thailand and the Socialist Republic of Vietnam;

1. HAVING gathered here in Bhopal, India from 14-19 August 2017 at the India-ASEAN Youth Summit;
2. CELEBRATING 50 years of the founding of ASEAN and the establishment of the ASEAN Community in 2015;
3. FURTHER CELEBRATING 25 years of India-ASEAN Dialogue Partnership and 5 years of our strategic partnership;
4. AFFIRMING our commitment to live in a peaceful, prosperous and rules-based global society;
5. COMMENDING the ongoing work of governments and organisations of India and ASEAN to engage youth in ensuring peace, stability and shared prosperity in Indo-Pacific Region;
6. FURTHER COMMENDING the concerted efforts of the organisers of this Summit to encourage dialogue between youth of India and ASEAN;
7. DESIRING TO strengthen the gains brought about by and consistent with the Plan of Action to Implement the ASEAN-India Partnership For Peace, Progress And Shared Prosperity (2016-2020) and The Kuala Lumpur Declaration on ASEAN 2025: Forging Ahead Together;
8. FURTHER AFFIRMING the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by world leaders in September 2015 UN Summit to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all;
9. MINDFUL that the rapidly changing geostrategic landscape in the world continues to present both opportunities and challenges which require the youth of ASEAN and India to stand and respond together on issues of mutual concern to ensure that we shape our common destiny;
10. UNDERSCORING the civilizational and cultural links between India and ASEAN especially the role of people-to-people exchanges in promoting our age old friendship;
11. RECOGNISING the important role of youth in enhancing our shared moral, spiritual, and cultural values as the basis for responsible leadership and in fostering a common India-ASEAN solidarity and identity so as to increase the representation of youth in governance and thereby strengthContinueden collective action and resilience;

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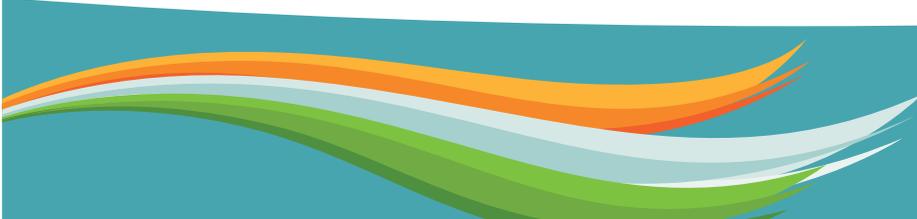
FURTHER RECOGNISING that by continued support through policies, programs, and technical interventions of the respective governments powerful convergences between India and ASEAN can become the basis for meaningful cooperation in each other's security and prosperity;

SEEKING to address unemployment and underemployment, lack of access to quality education and health, preventing any form of discrimination as emerging challenges for the youth of India and ASEAN;

DO HEREBY DECLARE to:

1. PROMOTE the study, documentation and dissemination, of the vibrancy and resilience of India and ASEAN's rich cultural and civilizational linkages and natural heritage;
2. SUPPORT people-to-people contacts and accessibility, including through visits to ASEAN and India of students, youth, tourists, sportspersons, academicians, think-tank scholars, local community representatives and diplomats;
3. PROMOTE closer collaboration between universities and higher institutions in India and ASEAN through scholarship programmes, exchange of teachers and students, joint research and university partnerships so that these can perform an active role in improving and matching the skills, literacy and employability of India and ASEAN youth;
4. ESTABLISH a network of young entrepreneurs in India and ASEAN so that they share best practises to build their capacities and skills to compete in the global market place;
5. PROMOTE digital and IT connectivity in India-ASEAN region so that the youth can access information and communication technologies and avail opportunities to obtain skills needed to participate meaningfully in the globalised, knowledge-based economy;
6. ENHANCE youth-related research and development and the sharing of science and technology information;
7. STRENGTHEN the capabilities of youth volunteer groups and organisations in the socio-economic development process, civic engagement and humanitarian and relief efforts so that they can amplify government and non-government resources and efforts directed at youth development;
8. CREATE enabling environment which encourages dialogue and facilitates the expression of youth creativity, and the participation and integration of youth in nation-building programmes and Indo-Pacific region-building programmes;
9. PASS ON our shared values, responsibilities and a belief in our common destiny, to the next generation;
10. URGE India-ASEAN Youth Summit to be an action oriented forum with concrete and sustainable results;
- 11..ENCOURAGE the formation of a India-ASEAN Youth Council to implement and monitor the agenda set out in this declaration and other issues related to the youth of this region;

**DONE in Bhopal, India this Eighteenth Day of August in the Year 2017,
in a single original copy, in the English Language.**



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