Gateway to Asia (1967–2026)

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- 7 **September 1967**: Indonesia and Singapore establish diplomatic relations, a month after the founding of ASEAN.[1]
- **1976**: Lee Kuan Yew makes his first official visit to China.[2]
- **November 1978**: Deng Xiaoping pays his only official visit to Singapore. A month later he launches China's policy of reform and opening.[3]
- **1986**: The Operational Headquarters incentive offers a concessionary tax rate of 10 per cent for regional services.[4]
- **1992**: India announces its Look East policy, with Singapore as its sponsor in Southeast Asia. Deng Xiaoping praises Singapore during his Southern Tour.[5]
- **24 January 1994**: Singapore and India sign their current double taxation agreement.[6]
- **26 February 1994**: The Suzhou Industrial Park is formally launched under a bilateral agreement.[7]
- **17 December 1994**: The Indonesia–Malaysia–Singapore Growth Triangle is formalised by a memorandum of understanding.[8]

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- **2003**: The Economic Development Board introduces the Regional Headquarters and International Headquarters awards.[9]
- **29 June 2005**: India and Singapore sign the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement, India's first agreement of its kind.[10]
- **18 November 2007**: China and Singapore sign the framework agreement for the Tianjin Eco-city.[11]
- **1 January 2009**: The China–Singapore Free Trade Agreement enters into force. Its further upgrade protocol takes effect on 31 December 2024.[12]
- **December 2011**: The Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty is introduced. For foreigners it reaches 60 per cent on 27 April 2023.[13]
- **8 February 2013**: The Singapore branch of ICBC becomes the renminbi clearing bank.[14]
- **July 2016 – March 2017**: Indonesia's tax amnesty brings declarations from Singapore of about 56 billion US dollars, the largest share from any country.[15]
- **16 January 2017**: The India International Exchange in GIFT City begins trading.[16]
- **27 February 2017**: A third protocol to the India–Singapore tax treaty enters into force. Capital gains on shares acquired from 1 April 2017 become taxable at source.[17]
- **2018**: Zhang Yong, founder of Haidilao, moves to Singapore. China and Singapore sign the first FTA Upgrade Protocol in November.[18]
- **27 April 2020**: India's International Financial Services Centres Authority is established in GIFT City.[19]
- **29 April 2021**: Singapore's PayNow and Thailand's PromptPay are linked in the world's first connection of real-time payment systems.[20]
- **25 January 2022**: Singapore and Indonesia sign agreements on extradition, defence cooperation and the flight information region in Bintan. They come into force together on 21 March 2024.[21]

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- **21 February 2023**: The link between India's UPI and Singapore's PayNow is launched.[22]
- **1 April 2023**: China and Singapore upgrade their relations to an "All Round High Quality Future Oriented Partnership".[23]
- **3 July 2023**: The SGX Nifty contract moves fully to GIFT City and is renamed GIFT Nifty.[24]
- **17 November 2023**: The PayNow–DuitNow link between Singapore and Malaysia is launched.[25]
- 7 **January 2025**: Singapore and Malaysia exchange the agreement on the Johor–Singapore Special Economic Zone at the eleventh Leaders' Retreat.[26]
- **September 2025**: Prime Minister Lawrence Wong visits India, and the two governments adopt a roadmap for their Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.[27]
- **Financial year 2025–26**: India receives equity FDI of 58.84 billion US dollars, of which 19.80 billion come from Singapore.[28]
- **October 2026**: The opening of the Johor Bahru–Singapore RTS Link is postponed to February 2027.[29]

Notes

1. Wikipedia, "Indonesia–Singapore relations" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.IV. ↩
2. Wikipedia, "Lee Kuan Yew" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.II. ↩
3. National Heritage Board, "Factsheet on the Deng Xiaoping Marker"; see Chapter I.II. ↩
4. See Chapter I.I and the sources cited there. ↩
5. Wikipedia, "India–Singapore relations"; National Heritage Board, "Factsheet on the Deng Xiaoping Marker"; see Chapters I.II and I.III. ↩

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6. IRAS, Agreement between Singapore and India for the Avoidance of Double Taxation; see Chapter I.III. ↩
7. Wikipedia, "Suzhou Industrial Park" (accessed November 2026); see Chapters I.I and I.II. ↩
8. Wikipedia, "Indonesia–Malaysia–Singapore Growth Triangle" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.IV. ↩
9. *The Nation* (Bangkok), "How Singapore's incentives for headquarters"; see Chapter I.I. ↩
10. Wikipedia, "Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.III. ↩
11. Wikipedia, "Sino-Singapore Tianjin Eco-city" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.II. ↩
12. Rajah & Tann Singapore, "Commencement of China-Singapore FTA Further Upgrade Protocol"; see Chapter I.II. ↩
13. IRAS, "Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty"; see Chapters I.II and I.V. ↩
14. Wikipedia, "Internationalization of the renminbi" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.II. ↩
15. "Singapura sumbang repatriasi tax amnesty terbesar", *Kontan*, 29 March 2017; see Chapter I.IV. ↩
16. Wikipedia, "India International Exchange" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.III. ↩
17. IRAS, "Singapore and India Sign New Protocol"; see Chapter I.III. ↩
18. Wikipedia, "Zhang Yong (restaurateur)"; Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore, country page "People's Republic of China"; see Chapter I.II. ↩
19. Wikipedia, "International Financial Services Centres Authority" (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.III. ↩
20. Monetary Authority of Singapore, media release of 29 April 2021; see Chapter I.I. ↩

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21. Wikipedia, “Indonesia–Singapore relations”; Cabinet Secretariat of the Republic of Indonesia; see Chapters H.V, I.I and I.IV. ↩
22. UPI–PayNow linkage, see Chapter I.III. ↩
23. Prime Minister’s Office, “Joint Announcement”; see Chapters F.IV and I.II. ↩
24. Wikipedia, “GIFT City” (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.III. ↩
25. Monetary Authority of Singapore, media release “Launch of Cross-border Payment Linkage”; see Chapter I.IV. ↩
26. Wikipedia, “Iskandar Malaysia”; Allen & Gledhill; see Chapter I.IV. ↩
27. India Brand Equity Foundation, “India-Singapore Trade”; see Chapter I.III. ↩
28. India Brand Equity Foundation, “Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)”; see Chapter I.III. ↩
29. Wikipedia, “Malaysia–Singapore relations” (accessed November 2026); see Chapter I.IV. ↩

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