

PM reveals 10-point plan to boost India-Asean ties

Says trade deal review by 2025 to harness group's greater economic potential

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Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi on Thursday announced a 10-point plan to strengthen India-Asean comprehensive partnership and said ties with the regional grouping were critical to guiding Asia's future.

Addressing the 21st India-Asean Summit, Modi noted that India-Asean trade had doubled to over \$130 billion in the past decade and announced a review of the trade in goods agreement by 2025 to harness the greater economic potential of the partnership.

"I believe that the 21st century—the Asian century—is the century of India and Asean nations," the PM said while addressing the leaders of the Asean nations that include Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Myanmar, Philippines, Vietnam, Laos and Singapore.

He said India was commemorating the 10th anniversary of its Act East Policy, which has given new energy, direction and momentum to



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Narendra Modi
Prime Minister, at Vientiane, Laos, on Thursday

Modi meets counterparts from Japan, New Zealand

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday held a “very productive” meeting with newly appointed Japanese counterpart Shigeru Ishiba in Vientiane, Laos, and discussed ways to enhance cooperation in different areas, including infrastructure, connectivity and defence. Prime Minister Modi also met his New Zealand counterpart Christopher Luxon on the margins of the Asean-India Summit.

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the relationship between India and the Asean nations.

“India-Asean friendship, coordination dialogue and cooperation is very important at a time when several parts of the world are facing conflicts and tensions,” Modi said.

The 10-point plan to further strengthen the India-Asean partnership includes celebrating the year 2025 as the Asean-India Year of Tourism, doubling the number of scholarships at Nalanda University and providing new

grants for Asean students at agri universities in India.

Modi also announced celebrating the decade of Act East Policy through several people-centric activities including Youth Summit, Start-up Festival, Hackathon, Music Festival, Asean-India Network of Think-Tanks and Delhi Dialogue.

Modi announced the Asean-India Women Scientists Conclave under the Asean-India Science and Technology Development Fund. He said India would make available \$5 million for enhancing disaster resilience and also initiate a health ministers’ track towards building health resilience.