



PRIME
MINISTER

**GENERAL STATEMENT ADDRESS BY
HIS EXCELLENCY PRIME MINISTER
KAY RALA XANANA GUSMÃO**

IN THE OCCASION OF THE 21ST ASEAN – INDIA SUMMIT

Vientiane, Lao PDR

10 October 2024

Thank you, Chair, Your Excellency Sonexay SIPHANDONE

Honourable ASEAN Leaders

The Honourable Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India

Your Excellency Secretary General of ASEAN

Esteemed colleagues, and friends,

Timor-Leste commends the collaborative spirit of the ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership.

The synergies between India's Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative and ASEAN's Outlook on the Indo-Pacific are important in fostering regional stability and prosperity.

We are living in troubled times characterised by rising international tensions and conflict, widespread poverty and extreme hunger, growing inequality and climate change.

As a Small Island Developing State, Timor-Leste commends India's leadership role in advocating for the interests of the Global South.

The relationship between Timor-Leste and India is strong. This was demonstrated by the high-level visit of the Indian President, the Honourable Droupadi Murmu to Timor-Leste in August this year.

This historic State Visit was the first-ever by an Indian Head of State to Timor-Leste signaling a strong commitment to enhancing cooperation between our two countries in key areas such as technology, agriculture, health, infrastructure, and education.

The establishment of embassies in Dili and New Delhi this year further solidify our relationship and facilitate stronger diplomatic ties.

Timor-Leste warmly welcomes this development and looks forward to the positive impact it will have on our bilateral relations and on our active engagement through ASEAN-led mechanisms, paving the way for a prosperous partnership in the future.

Thank you very much.

Kay Rala Xanana Gusmão