



## Lucknow Invited to ASEAN Forum as Knowledge City | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Aug 2025

### Why in News?

Officials of **Lucknow Municipal Corporation** were invited to attend the meeting of **ASEAN Governors & Mayors Forum (AGMF)** in Kuala Lumpur as a '**Knowledge City**', after gaining recognition for its initiatives in cleanliness, green development, and **sustainable urban management**.

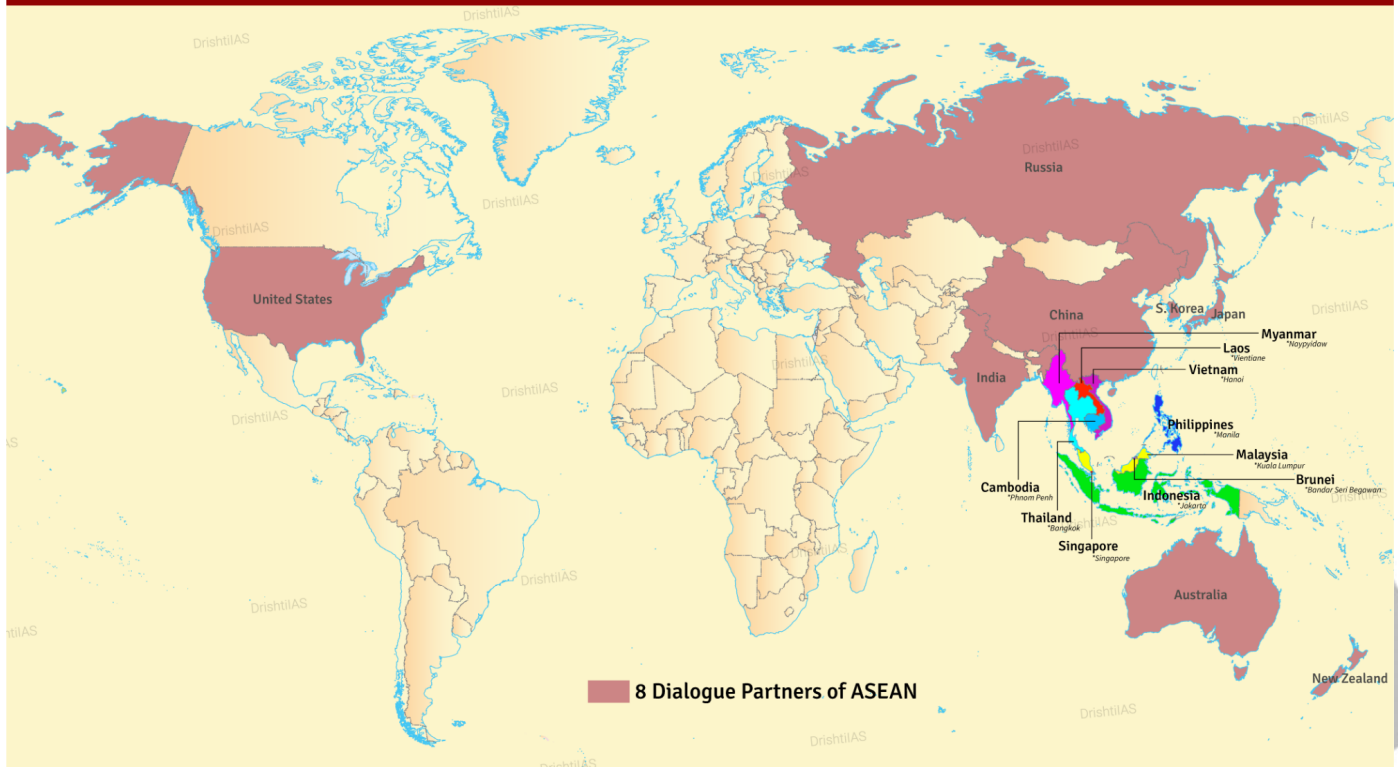
### Key Points

- **About:** The AGMF, originally the **ASEAN Mayors Forum (AMF) in 2011**, was founded to highlight **local contributions to ASEAN integration**.
  - In 2018, AMF was accredited as an entity associated with ASEAN, due to ASEAN member states' official recognition of its common goals and contribution to **ASEAN's community building**.
- **Participants:** The AGMF is being held from **10th August 2025 to 15th August 2025**, bringing together governors, mayors, urban experts from Asia, and international organizations such as the German Corporation for International Cooperation (**GIZ**), **United Cities and Local Governments Asia Pacific (UCLG ASPAC)**, and United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (**UNESCAP**).
- **Objective:** The forum aimed to **exchange knowledge on proven urban management** models, sustainable growth, climate action, and citizen participation.
- **Recognition:** Lucknow was **one of six Indian cities** selected to share its experiences in urban management at this prestigious event, marking a significant achievement in its journey towards sustainability and better urban governance.
  - Mayor **Sushma Kharkwal**, Municipal Commissioner **Gaurav Kumar**, and Additional Commissioner **Arvind Kumar Rao** presented the city's innovative projects.
  - Key projects highlighted during the event included the establishment of the **Shivri Solid Waste Processing Plant**, along with other initiatives.



# ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations



**Founded:** By signing ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) (1967)

**Founding Members:** Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

**Secretariat:** Indonesia, Jakarta

**Chairmanship:** Rotates annually

**ASEAN Summit Meetings:** Occur biannually

**ASEAN Economy:**

- Combined GDP: ~ USD 3.66 trillion (2022)
- Total Exports: USD 1.73 trillion (8.24% of global exports in 2021)
- Major Export Item: Monolithic Integrated Circuit, Palm Oil, Data Processing Equipment

**ADMM+Meeting:** Platform for ASEAN and its 8 Dialogue Partners (India, Australia, US, Japan, S. Korea, China, Russia and New Zealand)

- First Convened in: Hanoi, Vietnam (2010)



## Shivaji Memorial in Agra | Uttar Pradesh | 11 Aug 2025

### Why in News?

The **Uttar Pradesh government** has asserted its plan to construct a **memorial** dedicated to **Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj in Agra's Kothi Meena Bazar**, marking a significant step in **promoting tourism and cultural unity**.

## Key Points

- The UP government **will fully fund the project**, with no external collaboration.
- Construction of the project will be **led by the Uttar Pradesh Tourism Development Corporation**.
- The government is **preparing to begin work on the memorial and museum**, with a focus on ensuring cultural and historical accuracy.

## Key Monuments in Agra and Their Builders

- **Agra was founded by Sultan Sikandar Lodi of the Lodī dynasty in 1504.**
- **Agra Fort**
  - **Builder:** Akbar (initial construction), Shah Jahan (major structures)
  - **Prominent Buildings:**
    - **Moti Masjid:** Built by Shah Jahan
    - **Diwan-i-Aam (Hall of Public Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - **Diwan-i-Khas (Hall of Private Audience):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - **Jahangiri Mahal:** Built by Akbar
    - **Sheesh Mahal (Turkish Bath):** Built by Shah Jahan
    - **Gardens:** Built in Charbagh style, typical of Mughal architecture
- **Tomb of Itmad-ud-Daula**
  - **Builder:** Noor Jahan (wife of Jahangir)
  - **Uniqueness:** First Mughal structure **made entirely of white marble**.
- **Taj Mahal ([UNESCO World Heritage Site](#))**
  - **Builder:** Shah Jahan
  - **Uniqueness:** Finest example of Mughal architecture, built **in memory of Mumtaz Mahal (Arzuman Bano Begum)**. Known for its grandeur and opulence.

## Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj

- **About:** Born on **19th February 1630, at Shivneri Fort, Pune** was a visionary leader from the **Bhonsle clan** and the **founder of the Maratha Empire**, known for **resisting the Mughal Empire** and striving for self-rule.
- **Major Battles:** Battle of Pratapgad, Battle of Pavan Khind, **Sacking of Surat**, **Battle of Purandar**, **Battle of Sinhagad**, and Battle of Sangamner.
  - The **[Wagh nakh](#)**, was used by Shivaji **to kill Afzal Khan** in the 1659 Battle of Pratapgad.
- **Titles:** Chhatrapati, Shakakarta, Kshatriya Kulavantas, and Haindava Dharmodhhaarak.
- **Administration:** Centralized administration with the **Ashtapradhan (Council of Eight Ministers)**, abolished the Jagirdari System, implemented the **[Ryotwari System](#)**, and built a strong naval force for coastal defense.
  - **Shivaji** is renowned for his **innovative guerrilla warfare tactics**, which influenced subsequent rulers and shaped the **[Maratha Military Landscapes](#)**.