PREFACE

With the establishment of ASEAN a most glorious chapter in the history of Southeast Asian region had begun. Overcoming its initial slackness ASEAN emerged as "the most successful regional organization in the Third World". It began to play a significant role in shaping political, economic and security landscape of the region. Recognizing the potentials of the Southeast Asian grouping, nations of the world evinced keen interest in associating themselves with the ASEAN process by becoming dialogue partners and members of high profile ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF). India maintained cordial relations with ASEAN but sharply differed on "priorities and preoccupations". To forge closer links with ASEAN India had to wait till the unveiling of 'Look East' Policy. Upgradation of India's relations with ASEAN to the summit level which underscored political, economic and strategic compulsions for closer cooperation between India and ASEAN extolled India's odyssey since New Delhi had been accorded the sectoral dialogue partnership. This dissertation entitled "India –ASEAN Relations, 1992-2002" attempts to highlight the milestones in India's integration with the ASEAN process and the mutual benefits accrued by both India and ASEAN through enhanced cooperation.

The proposed study focuses on an area on which India has sharpened its attention. Even though literature on India's relations with
the countries of the Southeast Asian region available to some extent, not many scholars have ventured to make an analytical study of the growing India-ASEAN partnership. A few available works on the subject are: *The ASEAN region in India's Foreign Policy* (Dartmouth. 1996) by Kripa Sridharan; *India and ASEAN*, (Delhi Papers No.8, New Delhi, 1998) by G.V.C. Naidu; *India and ASEAN: 21st century Foreign Policy Dimensions* (New Delhi, 2005) an edited work by K. Raja Reddy; *India & Southeast Asia : Towards security convergence* (Singapore & Delhi, 2006) by Sudhir Devare; India and ASEAN : Partners at Summit (New Delhi, 2008) an edited work by P.V. Rao. This study, deals with India-ASEAN strategic partnership forged during the crucial period from 1992-2002. The study has current relevance and serves the needs of the country as it covers the entire gamut of relations between India and ASEAN.

The study is based on a wide variety of primary and secondary sources. The primary sources include the ASEAN documents, Press releases, periodicals, the publications of ASEAN Secretariat, ASEAN Secretary General interviews and statements brought out from time to time, publications of the AICC, New Delhi, and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, New Delhi, *Annual Reports of the Ministry of External Affairs*, Government of India, *Lok Sabha Debates*, and *Foreign Policy of India: Text of Documents, 1947-58*, Lok Sabha Secretariat, New Delhi.
The secondary source material include books, journals and newspapers, both Indian and foreign. Consultation of primary and secondary sources was supplemented by the interaction and exchange of views with the visiting professors, subject experts and columnists. Internet was a major source of information. A detailed bibliography is provided at the end of the dissertation.

This dissertation is divided into five chapters. First Chapter describes the historical relations between India and Southeast Asia besides highlighting interaction between India and Southeast Asia prior to the formation of ASEAN i.e. during 1947-1966. It also throws light on the frosty relations between India and China and India’s bonhomie with the Soviet Union much to the chagrin of the pro-US ASEAN and the establishment of various regional organizations in the Southeast Asian region and India’s response. The Second Chapter traces the origin and growth of ASEAN and discusses the factors contributing to the estrangement between India and ASEAN and remarkable turn-round in their relations.

The Third Chapter examines the economic and politico - strategic imperatives of India’s ‘Look East’ policy and ASEAN’s changing perception of India which paved the way for granting India sectorial dialogue partnership and full dialogue partnership, and the membership of ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) and the eventual elevation of India-
ASEAN interaction from the Forging Minister's level to that of the summit. An attempt has also been made to make an analytical study of security cooperation between India and ASEAN in the context of China's growing military power.

The Fourth Chapter explores the economic dimension of India-ASEAN partnership; problems and prospects of cooperation in trade and investment.

It also highlights interaction between India and ASEAN in the areas of science and technology, tourism, infrastructure, human resource development, people-to-people interaction. For a better understanding this chapter deart some aspects beyond Summit developments 2002.

The Fifth is the concluding chapter.

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