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Today, what the world needs most is peace, stability, and predictability - PM

CHENNAI – 18 Nov, 2026 Your Excellency, President Marcos, Your Majesty, Excellencies, Namaskar! I warmly congratulate President Marcos for the excellent organisation of the East Asia Summit. Friends, Since the COVID pandemic, the world has been facing one crisis after another. Conflicts are putting increasing pressure on food, fuel, and fertiliser supplies. Ships and seafarers are also being targeted on international waterways. Alongside the serious threat of terrorism, new forms of cross-border crime, such as cyber fraud and online scams, are also on the rise. Friends, Today, what the world needs most is peace, stability, and predictability. For many years, the East Asia Summit has served as an important platform for finding solutions to shared challenges and strengthening mutual cooperation. This very spirit of dialogue, mutual respect, and cooperation is the cornerstone of India's foreign policy. ASEAN unity and centrality are at the heart of our Act East Policy. We are committed to a Free, Open, Inclusive, and Rules-based Indo-Pacific. Whether it is Ukraine or West Asia, we will continue to support every effort towards peace. Friends, Our seas are the lifelines of our shared prosperity. Ensuring their security and freedom of navigation is the responsibility of us all. In this direction, we are launching a Seafarers' Safety Initiative, under which we will enhance cooperation in joint training and emergency response. Friends, Ensuring trust and security in the digital world is equally essential. At the AI Impact Summit held in India this year, we emphasized the development of human-centric, inclusive, and safe AI. We also emphasized the need for technologies such as digital watermarking to combat deepfakes and misinformation. We welcome the Joint Statement issued today on combating online scams. To effectively address this growing threat, we propose hosting the East Asia Summit Cyber Crime Conference at India's National Forensic Sciences University. Friends, The foundation of our relationship lies in a shared heritage that goes back thousands of years. The National Maritime Heritage Complex, being developed at Lothal in India, will soon showcase this shared heritage to the world. To further strengthen our historical and cultural ties, we will also host the East Asia Summit Maritime Heritage Festival at Lothal. Next year, we will host the East Asia Summit University Heads Conclave at Nalanda, which will provide fresh impetus to our cooperation in the fields of education and research. Friends, This year, we are commemorating the 50th anniversary of the historic Treaty of Amity and Cooperation in Southeast Asia. Fifty years ago, this region gave the world an important message, the message of peace, respect for sovereignty, and dialogue. Today, that message has become even more relevant. Our shared future will be shaped not by conflict, but by mutual respect and cooperation. With this vision, India will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with ASEAN, remaining committed to regional peace, stability, and shared prosperity. Thank you very much. DISCLAIMER -This is the approximate translation of Prime Minister's remarks. Original remarks were delivered in Hindi.