Singapore's envoy to India Simon Wong gets Public Administration Medal

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News

Singapore's High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong Wie Kuen, has received Singapore's Public Administration Medal (Gold) – in Malay, the 'Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (Emas)'. ANI reported on 23 November 2026 that President Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the medal on Sunday, 22 November (local time). It was awarded for advancing Singapore–India relations; his name also appears in the 2026 National Day Awards list of Singapore's Prime Minister's Office. On X, Wong said he shared the honour with his team and his friends and mentors in India. The medal, instituted in 1963, has three grades – Gold, Silver and Bronze. Wong, appointed High Commissioner to India on 30 June 2020, earlier served as Ambassador to Vietnam and Trade Representative to Taiwan.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Recipient	Simon Wong Wie Kuen
Post	Singapore's High Commissioner to India (since 2020)
Medal	Public Administration Medal (Gold) – Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (Emas)
Presented by	President Tharman Shanmugaratnam

Point	Details
Reason	Advancing Singapore–India ties
Instituted	1963; Gold, Silver, Bronze
Reported	23 November 2026

Background

- History: in 1819 Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company set up a trading post in Singapore. Singapore joined the Malaysian federation in 1963 and separated to become independent on 9 August 1965; Lee Kuan Yew was its first Prime Minister (1959–1990). The current PM is Lawrence Wong.
- Polity: Singapore is a parliamentary republic with the President as head of state. As Singapore and India are both Commonwealth members, their envoys are called 'High Commissioners'. The two adopted a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership roadmap in September 2025.
- Economy: Singapore is one of the leading sources of FDI into India; the India–Singapore Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CECA) was signed in 2005. Singapore is a founder member of ASEAN (1967).

Tamil Nadu link: Tamil is one of Singapore's four official languages. President Tharman Shanmugaratnam, who presented the medal, is of Sri Lankan Tamil descent; S.R. Nathan, of Tamil heritage, was Singapore's President from 1999 to 2011.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

Singapore's High Commissioner to India, Simon Wong Wie Kuen, has received Singapore's Public Administration Medal (Gold) – in Malay, the 'Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (Emas)'. ANI reported on 23 November 2026 that President Tharman Shanmugaratnam presented the medal on Sunday, 22 November (local time).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Recipient: Simon Wong Wie Kuen; Post: Singapore's High Commissioner to India (since 2020); Medal: Public Administration Medal (Gold) – Pingat Pentadbiran Awam (Emas); Presented by: President Tharman Shanmugaratnam.

What is the background to this news?

History: in 1819 Stamford Raffles of the British East India Company set up a trading post in Singapore. Singapore joined the Malaysian federation in 1963 and separated to become independent on 9 August 1965; Lee Kuan Yew was its first Prime Minister (1959–1990).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who founded a trading post at Singapore for the British East India Company in 1819?

A) Stamford Raffles

B) Robert Clive

C) Francis Light

D) Thomas Munro

Answer: A – Explanation: Stamford Raffles. Francis Light founded Penang (1786); Thomas Munro was Governor of Madras (Ryotwari system).

2. On 9 August 1965, Singapore separated from which federation to become an independent nation?

A) Indonesia

B) Malaysia

C) Brunei

D) Thailand

Answer: B – Explanation: Malaysia – it joined in 1963 and left two years later; 9 August is Singapore's National Day.

3. Who was Singapore's first Prime Minister, serving from 1959 to 1990?

A) Goh Chok Tong

B) Lee Kuan Yew

C) Lee Hsien Loong

D) Lawrence Wong

Answer: B – Explanation: Lee Kuan Yew – architect of modern Singapore. Then Goh Chok Tong, Lee Hsien Loong; Lawrence Wong since May 2024.

4. Which person of Tamil heritage served two terms as President of Singapore, from 1999 to 2011?

A) Devan Nair

B) Wee Kim Wee

C) S.R. Nathan

D) Ong Teng Cheong

Answer: C – Explanation: Sellapan Ramanathan (S.R. Nathan) – Singapore's longest-serving President. Devan Nair (1981–85) was of Malayali origin.

5. Singapore's envoy in India is called 'High Commissioner', not 'Ambassador', because both nations are members of what?

A) ASEAN

B) United Nations

C) G20

D) Commonwealth

Answer: D – Explanation: Envoys between Commonwealth countries are 'High Commissioners'. India is not an ASEAN member, only a dialogue partner.