

**Embassy of India
Yangon**

Report on Mekong- Ganga Food Festival held in Yangon and Mandalay on 23rd and 24th February 2025

The Embassy of India, Yangon, in collaboration with the India Women's Association and Myanmar Women Entrepreneurs Network (MYAWEN), successfully organized the Mekong-Ganga Food Festival on 23rd [February 2025](#) at The Secretariat, Yangon under the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation(MCG) Plan of Action. This vibrant event celebrated the deep-rooted cultural and culinary ties between India and the Mekong region, bringing together a diverse range of flavors, traditions, and shared heritage.

2. The Mekong-Ganga Food Festival aimed to highlight the strong historical and cultural links between India and the Mekong region, which includes Myanmar, Thailand, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. Inspired by the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation initiative, the event emphasized the role of food as a powerful medium to foster deeper people-to-people connections and promote regional collaboration. It provided an opportunity for culinary enthusiasts, entrepreneurs, and dignitaries to explore and appreciate the rich gastronomic traditions of the participating countries.

3. The event was attended by H.E. U Kyaw Soe Win, Hon'ble Union Minister for Hotel & Tourism, H.E Mr. Soe Thein, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Yangon Region Government, H.E. Mr. Bo Htay, Hon'ble Mayor of Yangon City Development Committee. Over 3000 people including dignitaries, diplomats, local leaders, and food lovers, government officials, business leaders also actively taken part in the food festivals .

4. The presence of women entrepreneurs and Indian restaurant from India and Myanmar added a unique dimension to the festival, underscoring the role of women in preserving and promoting culinary heritage.

5. The Mekong-Ganga Food Festival featured 46 food stalls, showcasing the rich and diverse flavors of both India and Myanmar. One of the most exciting aspects of the event was the inclusion of dishes from the eight regions of Myanmar, each with its own distinct culinary identity.

6. India's participation brought the full spectrum of its diverse culinary traditions, with an extensive range of dishes from its many regions including North Indian specialties like curry and aromatic biryani, as well as South Indian delights such as crispy Dosa and Sambar. The event also featured India's west and east street food as such Samosa, Panipur Gulab Jamun, Pao Bhaji and Litti Chokha etc.

7. In addition to the gastronomic delights, the festival also included cultural performances that highlighted the shared traditions and artistic expressions of India and the Mekong region. Traditional dance performances, music added to the festive atmosphere, creating an immersive cultural experience for attendees. The event also served as a platform for networking and collaboration among hotelers, restaurateurs, and entrepreneurs, fostering potential business partnerships in the food and hospitality sectors.

8. Ambassador emphasized the importance of cultural diplomacy in strengthening regional ties. He highlighted how food serves as a universal language that connects people beyond borders and contributes to mutual understanding and friendship. The event also provided a platform to discuss culinary tourism and the role of food in enhancing cross-cultural exchanges.

9. The Mekong-Ganga Food Festival was a resounding success, receiving enthusiastic participation. Media coverage, photo and videos of the event is attached.

1) GNLM

<https://www.gnlnm.com.mm/mekong-ganga-food-festival-held-in-yangon/#article-title>

2) MITV

<https://www.myanmaritv.com/news/cultural-exchange-program-mekong-ganga-food-festival-yangon>

3) Ministry of Information's Website

<https://www.moi.gov.mm/news/67556>, <https://www.moi.gov.mm/moi:eng/news/17132>

4) One News Myanmar

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/151jNtDppC/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/18LMb1w73f/?mibextid=ZbWKwL>

5) Yangon Media Group

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16j1k5ekkZ/>

6) MRTV

<https://mrtv.gov.mm/mm/news-290262>

7) Popular News Journal

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/14FmxyBAJSv/>

9) NP News

<https://npnewsmm.com/news/67bbf88635296c06f976a463>

10. the Economic Times

<https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/india/india-myanmar-bond-over-food-festival/articleshow/118589867.cms>

10. Further, On February 24, 2025 Mekong-Ganga Food Festival also organized in Mandalay at IBIS Style Hotel in Mandalay, under the framework of the Mekong-Ganga Cooperation Plan of Action.

11. The event was attended by Ambassador of India Shri Abhay Thakur. From the Mandalay Region Government, several Cabinet Ministers including Mayor of Mandalay Region U Kyaw San, Chief Justice Daw Khin Thin Wai, Minister for Commerce U Thein Htay, Minister for Natural Resources U Shwe Zin, Minister for Transportation U Aung Zaw Oo, and the Attorney General U Myint Aung, attended the event. Further, the President of the Mandalay Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry U Tin Latt also attended.

12. The event commenced with the lighting of lamp by the Ambassador, Mayor, and CG. Subsequently, remarks were delivered by the Ambassador, Mayor, and CG. This was followed by a demonstration and explanation of the different Indian and Myanmar dishes by the Chef at a specially designed food stall.

13. The event witnessed participation from a wide cross-section of Mandalay's society, including representatives of International Organizations in Mandalay such as the International Committee of the Red Cross, Jefferson Centre, WHO, UNHCR and UNOCHA. Further, members of the Indian diaspora (including business persons and heads of community organizations), NRIs, Rectors of prominent universities, and heads of business associations, also attended.

14. The event was widely publicized through the Post's Social Media handles. The links for the same are as follows:

X: <https://x.com/cgimandalay/status/1894057548954599842?t=6rW13NjEGalknfTNTN4nRA&s=08>

FB: <https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1BMNTLBX2x/>















