



National March 25, 2025

Six countries' cuisines showcased along Walk Street

Phuong Sothiny / Khmer Times



Indian Ambassador Vanlalvawna Bawitlung (R) serves Sao Chivan, Secretary of State from Ministry of Rural Development as well as President of Cambodia India Alumni Association, at one of the Indian food stalls during the event along Walk Street in Phnom Penh on Saturday. Embassy of India

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The Embassy of India in Phnom Penh, in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (MoFAIC), the Embassies of Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand in Phnom Penh, and the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration, organised the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) Food Festival along the Mekong riverside in front of Ounalom Pagoda, attracting many visitors in the evening.

According to the Indian Embassy, Indian Ambassador Vanlalvawna Bawitlung officially opened the culinary festival alongside

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representatives from the MoFAIC and the embassies of Laos, Thailand, Myanmar, and Vietnam on Saturday. The festival featured signature dishes from the MGC countries.

At the event, over a dozen Phnom Penh-based Thai, Laotian, Indian, Cambodian, and Myanmar eateries set up food stalls.

As a unique feature, the spouses of the Indian Embassy contributed to the festival’s appeal by setting up a stall selling homemade cuisine and treats. All proceeds from this initiative will be donated to humanitarian causes in Cambodia.

Held at its prime location along the Mekong riverfront in front of Phnom Penh’s Ounalom Monastery, the festival attracted hundreds of locals and visitors to the recently opened Phnom Penh Riverside Walk Street.

Speaking to Khmer Times, Vanlalvawna Bawitlung, Ambassador of India to Cambodia, expressed his excitement about contributing to the Walk Street initiative and collaborating with MoFAIC and other embassies.

“I am delighted to see that the festival blended extremely well with the Riverside Walk Street initiative of the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration and the Royal Government of Cambodia. We are very appreciative of the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration, and we extend our deep gratitude to Khoung Sreng, Governor of Phnom Penh, for providing the space for the Food Festival on the scenic riverside,” he said.

“Our appreciation also goes to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation and the Embassies of Laos, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Thailand for their cooperation in making the festival a success,” he added.

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“I would like to attribute the success of the festival to all the assistance from various partners as well as the people and tourists who visited the newly launched Walk Street,” he added.

Chorm Soriya, a chef at Eleven One Kitchen, which represented Cambodia at the festival, said that many visitors came to experience the

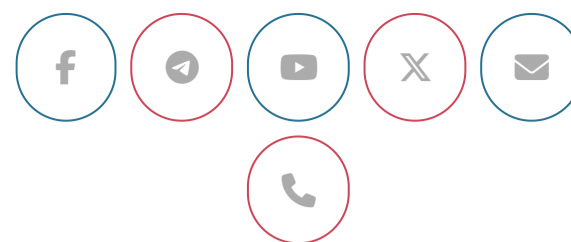


exhibition and taste dishes from Cambodia, Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Myanmar, and India.

Soth Sovatey, a visitor at the food stalls, said that it was a new experience to taste different foods representing different countries.

Among the Mekong cooperation mechanisms, the Mekong Ganga Cooperation (MGC) is the oldest, having been established in 2000. The MGC Food Festival was included in the MGC Action Plan 2019–24, and the MGC has been conducting numerous collaborative events.

The year 2025 is particularly significant as it marks the 25th anniversary of the MGC. The MGC has prioritised tourism, people-to-people connections, and the food festival was a welcome initiative to support the government and the Phnom Penh Municipal Administration



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