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ASEAN Summit, East Asia Summit, RCEP Summit, Quad Meeting

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PM recently concluded his visit to Singapore and attended the ASEAN-India Summit held on sidelines of **33rd ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) Summit, 13th East Asia Summit (EAS) and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit.**

- Singapore as the current Chair of ASEAN is hosting these Summits.
- India also participated in **3rd "Quad" Meeting.**

33rd Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Meeting

About ASEAN

- The Association of Southeast Asian Nations, or ASEAN, was established in 1967 with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration).
- The ASEAN members are Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, and Laos.
- On sidelines of 33rd ASEAN Summit, India-ASEAN Summit was also organized.
- As strategic partners, India and ASEAN have trade and economic relations.
- Trade between India and ASEAN stood at around **\$ 81 billion in 2017-18 and constitutes 10% of India's total trade.** Exports to **ASEAN countries constitute 11% of India's total exports.**
- India and ASEAN have a combined population of **1.9 billion which is a quarter of the world's population** and the combined GDP of \$5 trillion.
- In 2017, India and ASEAN celebrated 25 years of their engagement and the India-ASEAN Commemorative Summit was held on January 25th, 2017.
- India's relation with ASEAN is marked by **3 C's Culture, Commerce and Connectivity.**

[More About ASEAN-India Relationship](#)

13th East Asia Summit

- India also participated in 13th East Asia Summit.
- The East Asia Summit (**Established: 2005**) is a **forum of 18 countries** of the Asia-Pacific region formed to further the objectives of **regional peace, security, and prosperity**.
- There are **six priority areas of regional cooperation** within the framework of the EAS: Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity.
- India endorses regional collaboration in all six priority areas.
- The members of East Asia Summit consists of **10 ASEAN nations** (Indonesia, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, The Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Cambodia, Brunei, and Laos), and **8 other members-** Australia, China, **India**, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and the US.

2nd Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit

The Prime Minister also participated at the 2nd RCEP Summit, they reviewed the progress that has been made in the negotiations of RCEP.

3rd Quad Meeting

- It is the **grouping of four democracies -India, Australia, the US, and Japan**.
- The Quad association of members who have a shared objective to ensure and support a **"free, open and prosperous"** Indo-Pacific region and **rules-based global order**.
- Connectivity, counter-terrorism, and cybersecurity was the focus of the conversation at the third meeting of the 'Quad' countries.
- The US, Japan, and Australia emphasized "rules-based order" in their statements, which was missing from the Indian statement.
- A serious discussion took place on Sri Lanka and Maldives, both in India's immediate neighborhood and influenced by China's expansionism.

More About Quad

Significance of the Meetings

- Such meetings give a platform to **India to have a greater role for the economic integration** of the region and to ensure an open and inclusive Indo-Pacific.
- Such meetings help India to take a closer look at pressing issues in bilateral relations and the overall security and economic situation in India's extended neighbourhood.
- Many of the ten members of the **ASEAN perceive India as a much-needed counterbalance to China**.
- India also realises the centrality of ASEAN in its extended neighborhood through its 'Act East Policy'.

- India could work on the implementation of connectivity projects, such as the India-Myanmar-Thailand trilateral highway, and building new trade and transport linkages with all the ASEAN states.