



16th East Asia Summit

Why in News

Recently, the Prime Minister attended the 16th [East Asia Summit \(EAS\)](#).

- The 16th EAS discussed important regional and international issues including [Indo-Pacific](#), [South China Sea](#), [UNCLOS](#), **terrorism**, and situation in [Korean Peninsula](#) and [Myanmar](#).

Key Points

▪ Indo-Pacific:

- Reaffirmed India's focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of **"ASEAN Centrality" in the region**.
 - Highlighted the synergies between ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and India's [Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative \(IPOI\)](#).

▪ Resilient Global Value Chain:

- Emphasised the **importance of a resilient global value chain** and reiterated India's commitment to providing **Quad-sponsored vaccines to Indo-Pacific countries**.
 - [Quad countries](#) (India, Japan, Australia and US) are on track to help produce at least 1 billion vaccine doses in India to boost the global supply by the end of 2022.
- Recalled India's support of **USD1 million to the ASEAN Covid-19 Recovery Fund**.

▪ Multilateralism:

- India remained **committed to strengthening respect** for shared values of [multilateralism](#), rules-based international order, international law and sovereignty and territorial integrity of all nations.

▪ Cyber Security:

- The idea of **developing global standards on cyber security** has also been raised.

▪ Others:

- The EAS leaders adopted three statements on [mental health](#), **economic recovery through tourism**, and **sustainable recovery**, which have been co-sponsored by India.

East Asia Summit

▪ About:

- **Established in 2005**, it is a forum of **18 regional leaders** for strategic dialogue and cooperation on the key political, security, and economic challenges facing the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- The concept of an **East Asia Grouping was first promoted in 1991** by the then Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir bin Mohamad.

- There are **six priority areas** of regional cooperation within the framework of the EAS.
 - These are – Environment and Energy, Education, Finance, Global Health Issues and Pandemic Diseases, Natural Disaster Management, and ASEAN Connectivity.

▪ **Membership:**

- It comprises the **ten member states of the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations)** which are Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam, **along with 8 other countries** namely Australia, China, Japan, India, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea, Russia and the USA.

- It is an ASEAN-centred forum so it can **only be chaired by an ASEAN member**.

- **Brunei Darussalam** is the **chair for 2021**.

▪ **EAS Meetings and Processes:**

- The EAS calendar culminates in the **annual Leaders' Summit**, which is usually held **alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings** in the fourth quarter of every year.
- **Meetings of EAS Foreign Ministers and Economic Ministers** are also held annually.

▪ **India and EAS:**

- **India is one of the founding members** of the East Asia Summit.
- At the **East Asia Summit** in Bangkok **in November 2019**, India had unveiled India's **Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, which is aimed at forging partnerships to create a secure and stable maritime domain.

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Source: HT