



10 Point Plan for India-ASEAN Relations

[Source: IE](#)

Why in News?

Recently, India's Prime Minister announced a **10-point plan** at the [21st ASEAN-India Summit 2024](#) in Vientiane, Laos.

- He also participated in the [44th ASEAN summit](#) with the theme **ASEAN: Enhancing Connectivity and Resilience** and **19th East Asia Summit**.
- Year 2024 also marked **10 years of India's Act East Policy** that was announced in 2014 to strengthen **India-ASEAN ties** in trade, security, and connectivity in the [Indo-Pacific](#).

What are the Key Facts About the 21st ASEAN-India Summit 2024?

- **ASEAN and India Overview:** ASEAN and India together represent **7% of the world's GDP** and **26% of the global population**.
- **Emerging Technologies:** India and ASEAN agreed to collaborate on [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\)](#), [Blockchain](#), [Internet of Things \(IoT\)](#), [Robotics](#), [Quantum Computing](#), and [6-G technology](#).
- **Digital Transformation:** They issued a joint statement on advancing **digital transformation** covering [digital infrastructure](#), [fintech](#), and [cybersecurity](#).
 - India will share its expertise in **digital public infrastructure**, like [Aadhaar](#) and [UPI](#), with [ASEAN nations](#).
- **ASEAN-India Trade Growth:** In the last ten years, **India-ASEAN trade** had doubled to over **USD 130 billion**.
 - However, **India's trade deficit** with ASEAN has risen to **USD 44 billion in FY23**, compared to **USD 8 billion in FY13**.
 - India is ASEAN's **sixth largest trading partner** and **eight largest source of FDI** among **ASEAN Dialogue Partners**.
- **Trade in Local Currency:** Some ASEAN countries and India have started trading in **local currencies**, with **Malaysia** leading the way and other ASEAN nations expected to follow.
- **Investment Flows:** India and ASEAN's [Global Value Chains \(GVCs\)](#) have grown, with total investments surpassing **USD 125 billion from 2000 to 2023**.
- **Financial Integration:** In June 2024, the [Reserve Bank of India](#) officially joined [Project Nexus](#) with ASEAN which enables **real-time cross-border transactions** between **India's UPI** and **Singapore's PayNow** system.
- **Regional Security:** Both agreed to enhance the **ASEAN-India Comprehensive Strategic Partnership for regional peace, stability, and prosperity**, aligned with the [ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific \(AOIP\)](#) and supported by **India's Act East Policy (AEP)**.
- **Code of Conduct for the South China Sea:** Both supported full implementation of the **Declaration on the Conduct of Parties (DOC)** in the [South China Sea](#) and called for an effective **Code of Conduct (COC)** in line with [UNCLOS 1982](#).
- **Defence and Security Cooperation:** Both agreed to ensure **maritime security**, counter-terrorism, **cybersecurity** etc through joint military exercises and naval port calls. E.g., [ASEAN India Maritime Exercise](#).

Note:

The India's Prime Minister announced a **12-point agenda** at **Jakarta in 2023** to boost **India-ASEAN economic relations**, highlighting India's strong commitment to this partnership.

What is India's 10-Point Plan for ASEAN Cooperation?

- **ASEAN-India Year of Tourism 2025:** India will contribute **USD 5 million** for joint tourism activities.
- **Celebrating a Decade of the Act East Policy:** Events like **Youth Summit, Start-up Festival, Hackathon**, Music Festival, and Think Tank initiatives will be organised.
- **Women Scientists Conclave:** ASEAN-India Science collaboration through a conclave for women scientists.
- **Educational Scholarships:** Doubling [Nalanda University](#) scholarships and offering new scholarships for ASEAN students in Indian agricultural universities.
- **Trade Agreement Review:** The **ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement** will be reviewed by 2025.
- **Disaster Resilience:** India to provide USD 5 million to strengthen **ASEAN's disaster resilience**.
- **Health Ministers' Track:** Regular interactions between ASEAN and Indian health ministers to build health resilience.
- **Cyber Policy Dialogue:** Establishing an **ASEAN-India dialogue for digital and cyber resilience**.
- **Green Hydrogen Workshop:** Supporting ASEAN's energy transition with a [green hydrogen](#) workshop.
- **Climate Resilience Initiative:** ASEAN leaders invited to join India's "[Plant a Tree for Mother](#)" campaign.

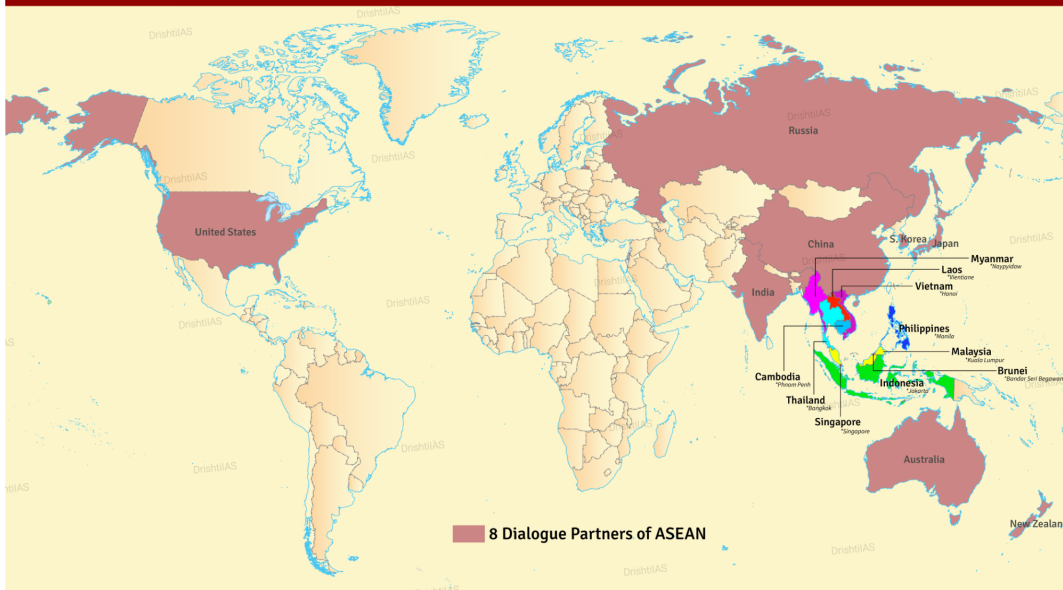
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ASEAN

Association of Southeast Asian Nations



Founded: By signing ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) (1967)

Founding Members: Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand

Secretariat: Indonesia, Jakarta

Chairmanship: Rotates annually

ASEAN Summit Meetings: Occur biannually

ASEAN Economy:

- Combined GDP: ~ USD 3.66 trillion (2022)
- Total Exports: USD 1.73 trillion (8.24% of global exports in 2021)
- Major Export Item: Monolithic Integrated Circuit, Palm Oil, Data Processing Equipment

ADMM+Meeting: Platform for ASEAN and its 8 Dialogue Partners (India, Australia, US, Japan, S. Korea, China, Russia and New Zealand)

- First Convened in: Hanoi, Vietnam (2010)



UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following countries: (2018)

1. Australia
2. Canada
3. China
4. India
5. Japan
6. USA

Which of the above are among the 'free-trade partners' of ASEAN?

- (a) 1, 2, 4 and 5
- (b) 3, 4, 5 and 6
- (c) 1, 3, 4 and 5
- (d) 2, 3, 4 and 6

Ans: (c)

Q. India is a member of which among the following? (2015)

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
2. Association of South-East Asian Nations
3. East Asia Summit

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

(a) 1 and 2 only

(b) 3 only

(c) 1, 2 and 3

(d) India is a member of none of them

Ans: (b)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/10-point-plan-for-india-asean-relations>

