



# 6th AITIGA Joint Committee Meetings

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, the 6<sup>th</sup> [ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement \(AITIGA\)](#) Joint Committee and related meetings were held in **New Delhi**.

- It marked a crucial phase in **reviewing the AITIGA** to enhance **trade relations** between India and [ASEAN](#) nations.

## What are Key Highlights of the 6th AITIGA Joint Committee Meetings?

- **Review Demand by India:** India had sought a review of the AITIGA, originally implemented in **2010**, citing **disproportionate trade benefits** for ASEAN countries.
  - While India's exports to ASEAN increased from **USD 25.62 billion (FY 2010-11)** to **USD 41.2 billion (FY 2023-24)**, imports surged from **USD 30.6 billion** to **USD 79.66 billion** in the same period.
- **India's Objectives in the Review:**
  - **Enhanced Market Access:** India wants ASEAN countries, particularly **Vietnam**, to make greater market-opening commitments for Indian goods.
  - **Stricter Rules of Origin (ROO):** India seeks more **stringent ROO** provisions to prevent **Chinese goods** from being routed through ASEAN nations at **preferential rates**.
- **Advancement in Negotiations:** India and ASEAN made initial progress towards **initiating tariff negotiations**, a crucial step in the review process.

## Note:

ASEAN accounts for approximately **11% of India's global trade**.

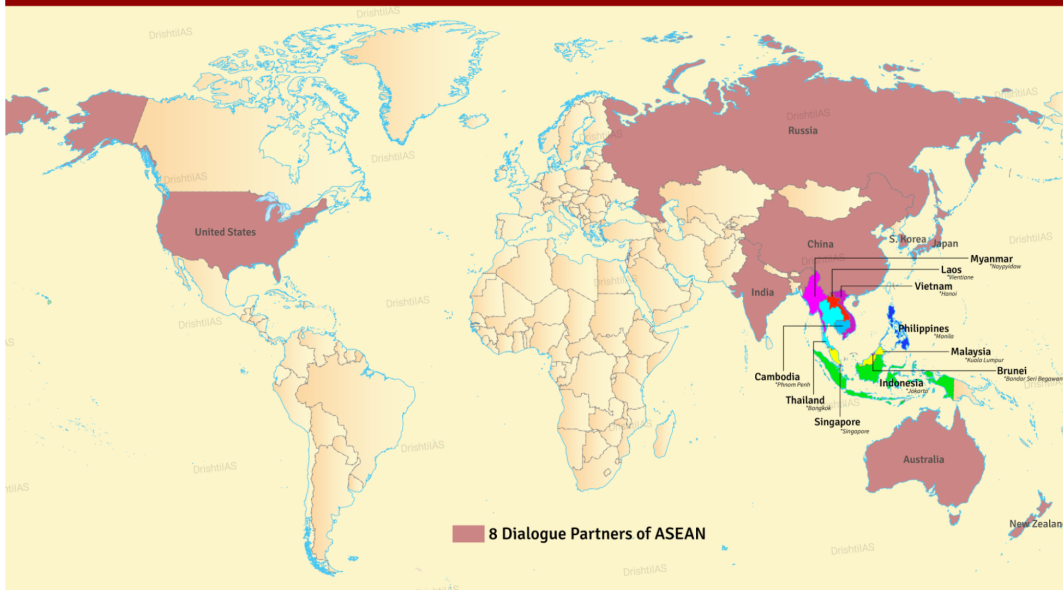
- Bilateral trade reached **USD 121 billion in FY 2023-24** and stood at **USD 73 billion (April-October 2024)**, marking a **5.2% growth**.
- India's **trade deficit** with ASEAN widened from **USD 4.98 billion in 2010-11**, the first full year of operation of AITIGA to **USD 38.4 billion in 2023-24**.

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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. The term 'Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership' often appears in the news in the context of the affairs of a group of countries known as (2016)**

(a) G20

(b) ASEAN

(c) SCO

(d) SAARC

**Ans: (b)**

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