



16th India-ASEAN Summit

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Why in News

The Prime Minister of India attended the **16th India-ASEAN Summit** in **Bangkok, Thailand** on **November 03, 2019**.

Key Highlights

- Along with this Summit, the other summits that took place in Thailand are-
 - 35th ASEAN Summit,
 - 14th East Asia Summit, and
 - 3rd meeting of RCEP.
- During the summit, the discussions were held to promote **India-ASEAN strategic partnership** along with cooperation in the field of **maritime security and blue economy, trade and investment, connectivity, science and technology, and innovation**.

On the **socio-cultural** front, the focus was made on enhancing people-to-**people connectivity, cultural exchanges, humanitarian aid, and tourism**.
- The Prime Minister also talked about the **mutual coordination** between India's vision of the **Indo-Pacific region** and the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Outlook** for maintaining strategic balance in the region, which has been witnessing growing Chinese assertiveness.
- At the **Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) Summit**, a **trade negotiation deal is yet to be finalized** after considering all issues that concern Indian interests in trade in goods, services, and investments.
- The PM addressed the Indian community at the **'Sawasdee PM Modi' event** in Bangkok.

In the **Thai language**, the word 'Sawasdee' is used for greetings and goodbye.
- During the visit, the Indian PM held **bilateral meetings** with a number of other world leaders present at Bangkok.

India-Myanmar



- The Indian Prime Minister highlighted the **importance of Myanmar** to India's **Look East Policy** and the **Neighbourhood First** policies.
- The emphasis was laid on building a **stable and peaceful border** by **improving physical connectivity** to and through **Myanmar to Southeast Asia** via. building roads, ports, and expansion of air connectivity.
- India would continue to support the capacity expansion programme for Myanmar's police, military and civil servants, as well as its students and citizens.
- India plans to host a business event for the **CLMV countries (Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, and Vietnam)** in Yangon at the end of November 2019.

India-Indonesia



- India and Indonesia agreed to work together for **peace, security, and prosperity** in order to achieve their shared vision on **maritime cooperation in the Indo-Pacific region**.

The two leaders discussed the **threat of extremism and terrorism** and agreed to work closely bilaterally and globally to tackle this menace.
- India is working with Indonesia to strengthen the ties in the areas of **defence, security, connectivity, trade and investment, and people-to-people exchanges**.

- The Indian PM highlighted the need for **greater market access for Indian commodities** in Indonesia including, pharmaceutical, automotive and agricultural products.
- India shares a **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** with Indonesia. And this year (2019), India and Indonesia commemorate the **70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations**.



- India and Thailand agreed to explore opportunities for cooperation in areas such as **trade, culture, and defence** industries sector.
- Emphasis was laid to **enhance connectivity** between the two countries, including in the areas of **physical and digital connectivity**.
- **Thailand 4.0 initiative** of transforming Thailand into a value-based economy is complementary to India's priorities **Digital India, Skill India, Swachh Bharat Mission, Smart Cities, Jal Jeevan Mission**, etc.
- In the contemporary context, **India's Act East policy is complemented by Thailand's Look West policy** which has made the relationship deep, robust and multifaceted.

Source: PIB