



10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus

For Prelims: 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, [Association of SouthEast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#), [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\) 1982](#), [Maritime Security](#), [Women in UN Peacekeeping Operations](#).

For Mains: 10th ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus, Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the Defence Minister of India has participated in the 10th [Association of SouthEast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\) Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus \(ADMM-Plus\)](#) in Jakarta, Indonesia.

What are the Key Highlights of the Indian Address in ADMM-Plus Meeting?

- **ASEAN Centrality:**
 - India affirmed the importance of **ASEAN's central role** and commended its efforts in fostering dialogue and consensus in the region.
- **Commitment to International Laws:**
 - India reiterated its commitment to freedom of navigation, overflight, and lawful commerce in international waters, aligning with international laws, notably the [United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea \(UNCLOS\) 1982](#).
- **Regional Security Initiatives:**
 - India advocated for consultative and **development-oriented security initiatives** that reflect consensus among stakeholders, aiming for practical, forward-looking cooperation within **ADMM-Plus to enhance Maritime Security** in the region.
- **Dialogue and Diplomacy:**
 - India stressed the significance of dialogue and diplomacy for enduring peace and global stability, emphasizing moving away from an **"us versus them" mindset, asserting that this is not an era of war.**
- **Collaborative Initiatives:**
 - India appreciated ASEAN Member States' participation in joint initiatives like the Initiative for [Women in UN Peacekeeping Operations](#), Initiative for Marine Plastic Pollution Response, ASEAN-India Maritime Exercise, and Expert Working Group (EWG) on [Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief \(HADR\)](#).
 - India proposed to **co-chair the EWG on Counter-Terrorism**, a concern endorsed by ADMM-Plus due to terrorism's serious threat in the ASEAN region.
 - In the present cycle from 2021-2024, **India is co-chairing EWG on HADR along with Indonesia.**

What is ADMM-Plus?

▪ **About:**

- The ADMM-Plus is a platform for **ASEAN** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) **and its eight Dialogue Partners** Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States (collectively referred to as the “Plus Countries”), to strengthen **security and defence cooperation for peace**, stability, and development in the region.
 - The ADMM is **the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism** in ASEAN.

▪ **Establishment:**

- The Inaugural ADMM-Plus was convened in **Ha Noi, Viet Nam**, in 2010.
- Since 2017, the ADMM-Plus meets annually, to allow enhanced dialogue and cooperation among **ASEAN and the Plus Countries** in the midst of an increasingly challenging regional security environment.

▪ **Objectives:**

- To benefit ASEAN Member States in building **capacity to address shared security challenges**, while cognisant of the differing capacities of various ASEAN Member States.
- To promote mutual trust and confidence between defence establishments through greater dialogue and transparency;
- To enhance regional peace and stability through cooperation in defence and security, in view of the transnational security challenges the region faces;
- To facilitate the implementation of the Vientiane Action Programme, which calls for ASEAN to build a peaceful, secure and prosperous ASEAN, and to adopt greater outward-looking external relation strategies with our friends and Dialogue Partners.

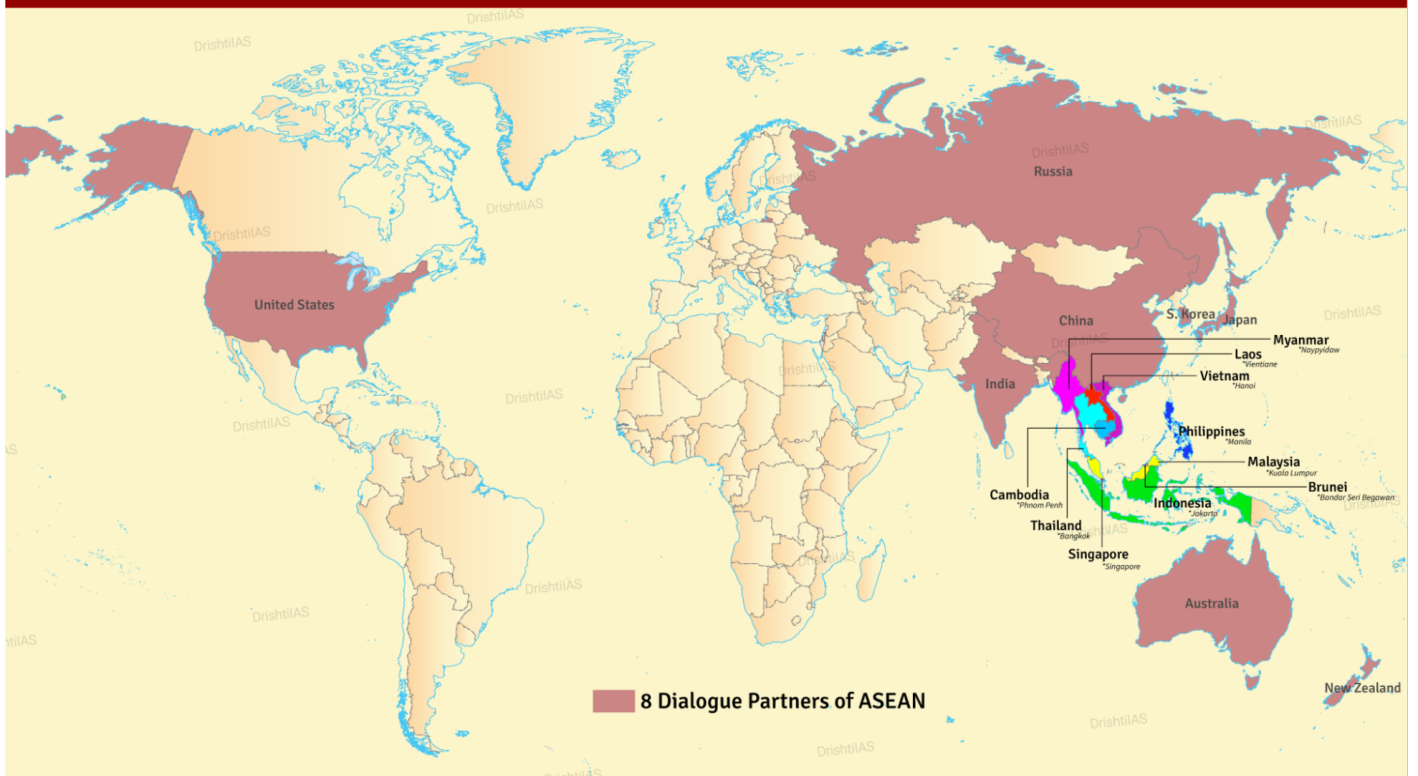
▪ **Achievements:**

- The ADMM-Plus has become an effective platform for practical cooperation among the participating countries’ defence establishments.
- The ADMM-Plus currently focuses on **seven areas of practical cooperation**, namely maritime security (MS), counter-terrorism (CT), humanitarian assistance and disaster management (HADR), peacekeeping operations (PKO), military medicine (MM), humanitarian mine action (HMA) and cyber security (CS).
- Experts’ Working Groups (EWGs) have been established to facilitate cooperation in these areas.
- The EWGs are each co-chaired by one **ASEAN Member States and one Plus Country**, operating in a three-year cycle.



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 Question (PYQ)

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)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/10th-asean-defence-ministers-meeting-plus>

