

15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting

Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister of State for Power attended the 15th East Asia Summit Energy Ministers Meeting.

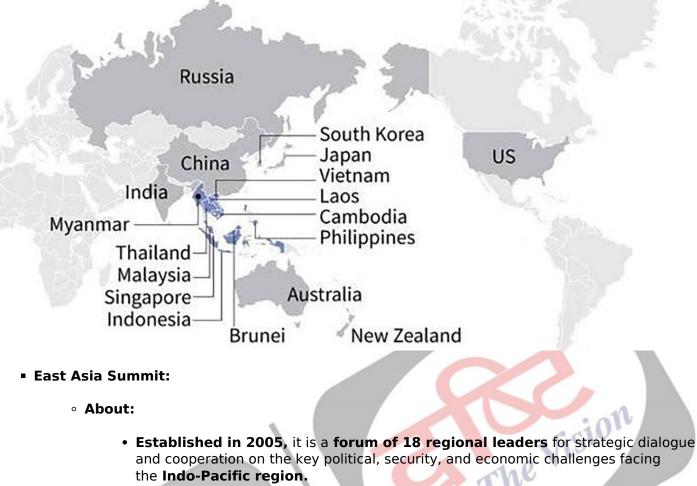
• The theme of the meeting was "We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper".

Key Points

- About the Meeting:
 - The meeting was aimed at coordinating efforts of <u>Association of Southeast Asian</u> <u>Nations (ASEAN)</u> countries in pursuing the goal of energy security and energy transition that will benefit the people of the region.
 - India confirmed that ASEAN is a region of great importance and engagement with ASEAN has been, and will remain, a critical element of <u>India's 'Act East' policy</u> and strategy.

Acting East is now a central element in India's <u>Indo-Pacific vision</u>.
A brief status of the <u>Indian energy transition</u> plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards <u>decarbonisation</u> was also provided.

• Some of India's initiatives include <u>National Solar Mission (NSM)</u>, <u>Pradhan Mantri</u> <u>Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY)</u>, <u>Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All (UJALA)</u>, <u>Smart City</u> <u>Mission (SCM)</u>, etc.



- 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** 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** <u>Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)</u>, which is aimed at forging partnerships to create a secure and stable maritime domain.
- Other Related Groupings:

• ASEAN Defence Ministers Meeting (ADMM) Plus:

- It is an annual meeting of Defence Ministers of 10 ASEAN countries and eight dialogue partner countries.
- The **ADMM-Plus countries** include ten ASEAN Member States and eight Plus countries, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, and the United States (same as in the EAS).
- ASEAN Regional Forum:
 - **Established in 1994,** the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) is an important platform for security dialogue in the Indo-Pacific.
 - It comprises **27 members:** the 10 ASEAN member states, the 10 ASEAN dialogue partners (Australia, Canada, China, the European Union, India, Japan, New Zealand, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and the United States); Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste; and one ASEAN observer (Papua New Guinea).

Source: PIB

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