



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 [Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\) 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 [India's 'Act East' policy and strategy](#).
 - **Acting East** is now a central element in India's [Indo-Pacific vision](#).
- A brief status of the [Indian energy transition](#) plans, policies, challenges and efforts towards [decarbonisation](#) was also provided.
 - Some of India's initiatives include [National Solar Mission \(NSM\)](#), [Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana \(PMUY\)](#), [Unnat Jyoti by Affordable LEDs for All \(UJALA\)](#), [Smart City Mission \(SCM\)](#), etc.



▪ East Asia Summit:

◦ About:

- **Established in 2005**, it is a **forum of 18 regional leaders** for strategic dialogue and cooperation on the key political, security, and economic challenges facing the **Indo-Pacific region**.
- 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 Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative (IPOI)**, 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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