



## East Asia Summit

**For Prelims:** [East Asia Summit](#), [ASEAN](#), [Act East Policy](#)

**For Mains:** Role of the EAS in addressing regional issues of common interest and concern

**Source:** [TH](#)

### Why in News?

Recently, India's External Affairs Minister attended the 13<sup>th</sup> [East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting](#) and utilized the opportunity to engage in discussions with China's top diplomat, on the sidelines of the event.

- They discussed outstanding issues along the [Line of Actual Control \(LAC\)](#), emphasizing the **importance of peace and the disengagement of troops**.

### What is the East Asia Summit?

#### ▪ About:

- The EAS was established in **2005 as an Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-led initiative**.
- The EAS is the **only leader-led forum in the Indo-Pacific** that brings together all key partners to discuss political, security and economic issues of strategic importance.
- The EAS operates on the principles of **openness, inclusiveness, respect for international law**, ASEAN centrality, and ASEAN's role as the driving force.
- The idea of an East Asia Grouping was first proposed by then **Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in 1991**.
  - The first summit was held in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on 14 December 2005**.

#### ▪ Members:

- The EAS comprises **18 members**: the **10 ASEAN countries** (Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam) and **eight dialogue partners** (Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia and the United States).

#### ▪ EAS Meetings and Processes:

- The EAS is usually held alongside **ASEAN Leaders' meetings in the fourth quarter of every year**.
- The EAS Leaders' Summit is supported by **various ministerial and senior officials' meetings**, such as the **Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the Economic Ministers' Meeting, the Defence Ministers' Meeting, and the Education Ministers' Meeting**.
- The EAS has **six priority areas of cooperation**: environment and energy; education; finance; global health issues and **pandemic diseases**; natural disaster management; and ASEAN connectivity.
- The EAS also covers other topics of common interest and concern, such as trade and investment, regional architecture, maritime security, non-proliferation, counterterrorism,

and [cyber security](#).

▪ **India and East Asia Summit:**

- **India has been a founding member of the EAS since 2005** and has actively participated in all its meetings and activities.
- India views the EAS as a key platform for enhancing its [Act East Policy](#) and strengthening its strategic partnership with ASEAN and other regional countries.
- 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.
- India has contributed to the EAS cooperation in various fields, such as disaster management, renewable energy, education, health, connectivity, maritime security and counterterrorism.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

### Prelims

**Q. India is a member of which among the following? (2015)**

1. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
2. Association of South-East Asian Nations
3. East Asia Summit

**Select the correct answer using the code given below:**

- (a) 1 and 2 only  
(b) 3 only  
(c) 1, 2 and 3  
(d) India is a member of none of them

**Ans: (b)**