

18th ASEAN-India Summit

November 3, 2021

In news- Recently the Indian Prime Minister attended the 18th Asean-India Summit via video conferencing.

Key updates-

- This Summit **reviewed the status of Asean-India Strategic Partnerships** & also reviewed the progress made in key areas including Covid-19 and Health, Trade and Commerce, Connectivity, and Education and Culture.
- This summit was **chaired by the Sultan of Brunei**.
- The summit theme was **“We Care, We Prepare, We Prosper”**
- During his address, the Prime Minister pointed out that the year **2022 will complete three decades of India-Asean partnership** and this milestone will be celebrated as the ‘Asean-India Friendship Year’.
- **He also addressed the 16th East Asia Summit a day before this summit**, where he reaffirmed India’s focus on a free, open and inclusive Indo-Pacific and the principle of Asean Centrality in the region.
- The **summit is held every year** and provides an opportunity for India and Asean to engage at the highest level.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations(ASEAN)-

- ASEAN was **established on 8 August 1967 in Bangkok, Thailand**, with the signing of the ASEAN Declaration (Bangkok Declaration) by the Founding Fathers of ASEAN, namely Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Thailand.
- Brunei Darussalam (1984), VietNam (1995), Lao PDR and Myanmar (1997), and Cambodia (1999), joined the ASEAN later.
- Its fundamental Principles are derived from **Treaty of**

Amity and Cooperation, 1976.

- The **ASEAN charter entered into force in 2008** and became the legally binding agreement.
- ASEAN community consists of 3 pillars: **Political-security community, Economic community, Socio-cultural community.**
- **The United States became a Dialogue Partner country of ASEAN in 1977.**
- In 1994, ASEAN took the lead in establishing the **ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF)**, which now has 27 members and meets each year at the ministerial level.
- The up-gradation of the relationship into a **Strategic Partnership in 2012** was a natural progression to the ground covered since India became a Sectoral Partner of the ASEAN in 1992, Dialogue Partner in 1996 and Summit Level Partner in 2002.
- ASEAN is **India's fourth largest trading partner.**
- The **ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting (ADMM)** is the highest defence consultative and cooperative mechanism in ASEAN.
- The ADMM+ brings together Defence Ministers from the 10 ASEAN nations plus Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Russia, and the United States on a biannual basis.

The East Asia Summit-

- It is a premier leaders-led forum for discussions on important strategic issues in the Indo-Pacific.
- It was started in 2005.
- It has played an important part in the strategic and geopolitical evolution of East Asia.
- Besides the 10 Asean member countries, the East Asia Summit includes India, China, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Australia, New Zealand, the United States and Russia (in total 18 members).

- The EAS calendar culminates in the annual Leaders' Summit, which is usually held alongside ASEAN Leaders' meetings in the fourth quarter of every year.
- It is also an important platform for furthering practical cooperation in the Indo-Pacific by building upon the convergence between ASEAN Outlook on Indo-Pacific (AOIP) and Indo-Pacific Ocean's Initiative (IPOI).