

ASEAN-India Economic Relations

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | International Relations

Why in News?

Recently, India Participates in 14th East Asia Summit Economic Ministers' Meeting and 23rd ASEAN-India Economic Ministers Consultation.

- **Held in** - Manila, Philippines
- **Representatives** - From all 11 ASEAN countries — Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Vietnam — participated in the meetings along with EAS partners, including India, Australia, China, Japan, New Zealand, Korea, Russia and the United States.
- **Key development**
 - India-ASEAN bilateral trade: US\$128.38 billion in 2025-26
 - ASEAN accounted for 10.55% of India's total global trade.
- **Objective** - To facilitate an exchange of perspectives on prevailing regional and global economic developments.
- **Key highlights**
 - **ASEAN Secretariat** - It provided a **briefing on the regional and global economic outlook for 2027**, including the anticipated implications for trade and investment flows.
 - **Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA)** - It also presented its paper, **"Powering the EAS Region's Next Wave of Growth: An Integrated Approach to Energy Security and Industrial Clusters."**
 - It focuses on integrated energy, digital/industrial demand, infrastructure, and trade-investment policies.
- **Trade Partnerships** - India reaffirmed commitment to strong and mutually beneficial regional trade partnerships.
- **AITIGA Review** - It focuses on improving trade flows and addressing trade asymmetries.
 - **Objective** - To make AITIGA balanced, effective, user-friendly and trade-facilitative for businesses.

Comparison: ASEAN, East Asia Summit (EAS), ASEAN-India and AITIGA

Feature	ASEAN	East Asia Summit (EAS)	ASEAN-India	AITIGA
 Full form	 Association of Southeast Asian Nations	 East Asia Summit	 ASEAN-India Cooperation	 ASEAN-India Trade in Goods Agreement
 Nature	Regional organisation	Leaders-led regional forum	Bilateral/regional partnership	Trade agreement
 Established	1967	2005	Dialogue partnership since 1992	Signed 2009
 Core focus	Regional cooperation & integration	Strategic, political, economic cooperation	India-ASEAN relations	Trade in goods
 Members / Parties	11 ASEAN members including Timor-Leste	ASEAN + 8 partners	India + ASEAN	India + ASEAN
 India's role	Dialogue Partner	Member	Partner	Party to agreement
 Secretariat	Jakarta, Indonesia	ASEAN Secretariat supports EAS processes	ASEAN Secretariat + India mechanisms	ASEAN-India institutional framework
 Key areas	Political-security, economic, socio-cultural	Strategic, political, economic issues	Trade, connectivity, development, capacity building	Tariffs, market access, trade facilitation
 Significance	Regional organisation	Regional forum	India's Act East policy	India-ASEAN trade relations

Reference

[PIB | ASEAN-India Economic Relations](#)